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NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP REJECTS MORATORIUM

Issues at Meeting

LD222310 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 22 Mar 82

[From the "International Diary" Program with Georgiy Alekseyev]

[Excerpt] In the U.S. town of Colorado Springs, a session of the NATO nuclear planning group is taking place. According to press reports, a unified response from NATO member countries to the new Soviet peace initiatives is being worked out at the session, in accordance with the negative position adopted by official Washington. The question of the deployment of new U.S. nuclear armaments in Western Europe is also being discussed. The United States is trying for all it is worth to impose them on its partners.

Penchenko Commentary

LD242300 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] NATO's Nuclear Planning Group has completed a meeting in Colorado Springs, the United States. Our commentary has been prepared by Igor Penchenko.

Thirteen NATO defense ministers met a week after the Soviet Union made public its new proposals to bring about disarmament. The proposals are aimed at reaching understanding on a major reduction in the nuclear weapons of both sides and limiting the military activity of nations. To facilitate a reduction, Soviet leaders decided to unilaterally halt the deployment of medium-range nuclear arms in the European part of the country and reduce the missiles already deployed. They expressed the hope that the Western partners in the talks will respond constructively in the spirit of good will.

But the war machine of Reagan, Haig and the Pentagon -- to use the words of U.S. Communist Party General Secretary Gus Hall -- gave at once a hostile reception to the new Soviet proposals. President Reagan again claimed that the Soviet Union was working for military superiority over the United States and the West. Many NATO defense ministers said the same, or very much the same, at the meeting of their Nuclear Planning Group. As one authority on statistics notes, it is easy to prove that Ireland has dwarfed China in terms of population if the redheads alone are counted. NATO armchair strategists use such a redhead method in assessing the correlation of armed strength between the two sides. Senator Edward Kennedy has commented on President Reagan's allegation that Soviet supremacy over America is possibly a 6:1 ratio in nuclear warheads in Europe. Senator Kennedy said that this is a deliberate lie.

What is the truth then? In terms of the medium-range nuclear arms in Europe there is approximate parity between the Soviet Union and NATO countries. NATO countries have 986 delivery vehicles, including U.S. forward-based nuclear weapons, medium bombers, fighter-bombers and aircraft based on aircraft carriers -- more than 700 all told. Besides, there are the nuclear potentials of Britain and France -- some 300 units. The USSR has 975 units of similar arms. And one point more: The United States medium-range weapons are assuming the character of strategic weapons targeted on the Soviet Union, whereas this cannot be said for Soviet weapons with regard for the United States. So there is approximate parity. And if it's to be preserved no medium-range missiles must be deployed. This is the meaning of the moratorium the Soviet Union has proposed.

However, NATO defense ministers rejected the Soviet proposal and reaffirmed their decision to site in West Europe some 600 new generation American medium-range missiles. What such a decision lacks is common sense and concern for the security of the West. After all, the more weapons the two sides have the greater the risk is that the weapons can be used.

Bogachev on Meeting Communique

LD251624 Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 25 Mar 82

["At Washington's Bidding" -- TASS headline; by TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- At a session in Colorado Springs NATO's Nuclear Planning Group expressed its negative attitude to the Soviet Union's decision to impose a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear armaments in the European part of the USSR.

NATO defence ministers who only recently sounded the alarm by alleging that the Soviet Union was engaged in an intensive buildup of its missiles in Europe, now see a nearly equal danger in the Soviet Union's unilateral decision to freeze its medium-range nuclear forces in Europe. Trying to justify their negative and quite a vague attitude to the Soviet Union's unilateral decisions on a moratorium, defence ministers of 13 NATO countries said in a communique that this move would allegedly consolidate the Russian monopoly on missiles. It is difficult to say whether ignorance or deliberate falsehood prevail in such a statement.

The Soviet Union has no intention whatsoever of perpetuating with its unilateral moratorium the high level of military equilibrium existing in Europe at present. Soviet leaders have repeatedly stressed that a moratorium (whether unilateral or bilateral) can be only the first step toward a substantial reduction of nuclear armaments in Europe through talks based on the principle of equality and equal security. The present unilateral moratorium introduced by the USSR will be in effect until an agreement is reached with the United States on a reduction of medium-range nuclear means designed for use in Europe or until U.S. leaders, disregarding the security of nations, after all start practical preparations for the deployment of Pershing-II and cruise missiles in Europe.

And still NATO ministers did not dare criticise openly the part of the Soviet peace initiatives which provides for a reduction of a certain number of Soviet medium-range missiles already in 1982, unless there is a new aggravation of the international situation. NATO defence ministers simple pretended there was no such decision, alleging that under the Soviet proposals Russians would not have to scrap a single missile.

It is only natural that the NATO communique fails to give an appraisal to that part of Reagan's "zero option" under which, as C. Weinberger put it recently, the United States would retain the right to deploy hundreds of sea-based cruise missiles on surface and underwater ships cruising off the coasts of Europe, even in case the Soviet Union accepted U.S. terms for a complete dismantling of all Soviet medium-range missiles.

The authors of the communique are clearly being hypocritical, describing proposals of the United States as serious and honest.

Announcing the new Soviet decisions, Leonid Brezhnev expressed the conviction that the peoples of the whole world would appreciate peaceable intentions and good will displayed by the Soviet Union. "We hope," said he, "that out Western counterparts in the talks will be able to respond to this by taking constructive steps in a spirit of good will."

At the same time Leonid Brezhnev warned the adherents of the policy of attaining military superiority that if the governments of the United States and its NATO allies were actually to carry out their plan to deploy in Europe hundreds of new U.S missiles capable of striking targets on the territory of the Soviet Union, the USSR would be compelled to take retaiiatory steps that would put the other side, including the United States itself, its territory, in an analogous position. The participants in the session of NATO defence ministers in Colorado Springs would be well advised to remember that.

ISRAELYAN SCORES U.S., NATO ARMS DECISIONS

LD252030 Moscow TASS in English 1935 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Geneva, 25 Mar, TASS -- The decisions on the chemical rearmament of the USA is combined with the development of the production of neutron weapons, with the plans to deploy new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, with NATO's decision to step up military preparations, USSR representative Viktor Israelyan said at the meeting of the Disarmament Committee. According to NATO's military doctrines, it is precisely the European region that is the likeliest arena for the use of chemical weapons. The United States' course at the aggravation of military preparations leads to a dangerous spiral in the chemical arms race and creates considerable difficulties for talks, specifically in the Disarmament Committee, on the banning of this type of mass destruction weapons. There effective talks and the early drawing up of a convention to ban chemical weapons are now important as never before, V. Israelyan said.

The USSR was one of the countries that made the initiative for a complete ban on chemical weapons. At the 26th CPSU Congress and in the subsequent period, the Soviet side called the attention of the world community to the fact that the talks on banning chemical weapons are conducted impermissibly slowly. The USSR persistently exerts efforts so that the talks be conducted more actively and mutually acceptable results can be achieved. The Soviet representative stressed in conclusion.

The U.S. policy of stepping up the chemical arms race was sharply criticised also in speeches of representatives of the GDR, Poland, Bulgaria, the Mongolian Peoples Republic.

REAGAN, OTHERS AT ODDS OVER BREZHNEV PROPOSALS

PM251601 Moscow Pravda in Russian 22 Mar 82 p 6

[Commentary by PRAVDA political observer Yuriy A. Zhukov]

[Text] Reports of the new, far-reaching proposals and decisions by our party and state put forward by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev at the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress, whose implementation would avert the growing threat of a world nuclear missile war, spread throughout the world like lightning.

These weighty, far-reaching decisions and proposals have met with the most active support from the governments of the socialist countries, the fraternal communist and workers' parties, broad circles of the world public and sober-minded representatives of the ruling clique in many bourgeois states.

Only the leaders of the United States and the NATO states which are closest to it hurried to say "No," without even familiarizing themselves properly with the content of the new Soviet proposals. On the day when Comrade L.I. Brezhnev addressed the trade union congress, U.S. President R. Reagan was far away from Washington, on a routine propaganda tour: He was taking part in preparations for the forthcoming partial congressional election, and so, speaking in Nashville, the head of the present U.S. administration, departing from the prepared text of his speech, stated that he was opposed to a "freeze" on medium-range nuclear facilities. "In the event of a 'freeze,'" he said, "we and our allies would be in a very dangerous (?!) position, and I, as President, will never permit that."

Spokesman for the American administration in Washington spoke in the same categorical spirit.

These U.S. attempts to brush aside the USSR's important initiatives met with resolute condemnation in many countries, including the United States.

"The United States should not simply brush aside the Soviet proposal but must strive to take bigger steps away from the brink of nuclear war," the prominent American Senator Edward Kennedy stated, putting forward a proposal on a nuclear arms freeze the other day together with a large group of members of Congress. "We must abandon the dangerous theory," he said, "that it is possible to win a nuclear war, since such a policy could lead to international catastrophe."

Dissatisfaction with Reagan's hasty negative reaction was also expressed by Senators Leahy and Jackson, Congressman Edgar and many other figures in Washington. Senator Mathias called on the Reagan administration to immediately begin talks with the USSR on strategic nuclear arms limitation. T. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, stated that the new Soviet proposals are a "step in the right direction."

In all, 19 of the 100 American senators and more than 120 of the 435 U.S. congressmen have already come out in favor of a nuclear arms "freeze."

And I have not mentioned the fact that representatives of many U.S. public organizations have assessed the new Soviet proposals highly and support them actively.

According to a public opinion poll carried out by the Gallup organization, 76 percent of Americans support a 50-percent reduction in U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals, 72 percent are against the creation of new types of mass destruction weapons, and 47 percent support the destruction of all nuclear weapons.

The picture is similar in the countries allied with the United States. Although the leaders of the governments of certain West European NATO countries, above all British Prime Minister Thatcher, observed "Atlantic" discipline and hurried to support the negative stance adopted by the American administration, many prominent state and public figures welcomed the new Soviet proposals and expressed support for them.

Austrian Chancellor B. Kreisky, Danish Prime Minister A. Jorgensen and Greek Prime Minister A. Papandreou welcomed the new Soviet initiatives. Many other West European figures also expressed support for them. Demands are being made on the United States from all quarters for Western governments to consider the initiatives closely and in a constructive spirit. That was the stance adopted by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

After this it is not surprising that, as a commentary for America's ABC television reported, "White House advisers" started to sound the alarm, fearing that "in the conditions of the growing antiwar movement Reagan will once again look to the public like a warmonger."

In this situation the American administration was forced to change the tone of its remarks on the USSR's new initiatives to some extent. A White House spokesman stated that the U.S. administration "is studying all aspects of the Soviet proposals," while a State Department spokesman told journalists that the American leadership's "initial reaction" to these proposals does not mean (?) that the United States "completely rejects the Soviet initiatives."

However, it is striking that at the same time Washington embarked on a new political maneuver which is clearly aimed at distracting public attention from the proposals put forward by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and casting aspersions on them.

Answering journalists' questions, Reagan stated that his administration..."is studying the hidden (?) meaning" of the "Soviet warning that the USSR will adopt retaliatory measures in the event of the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe." Then an anonymous "State Department executive" held a "briefing" for journalists devoted to the new Soviet proposals and stated that L.I. Brezhnev's remarks contain "threatening (?!) notes." And then, as if by command, U.S. and NATO news services started shouting with redoubled energy that the Soviet Union is threatening the West while the United States is fighting for disarmament by proposing its notorious "zero option."

Reagan condescended to state that he, you see, regards the concern expressed by L.I. Brezhnev with regard to the USSR's security in the event of the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe as "unnecessary." "It is only necessary," the U.S. president said, "to agree to all we have proposed, and there would no longer be any nuclear threat in Europe."

But what about the existing American forward-based nuclear facilities in Western Europe? The U.S. President continues to pretend not to know about the huge number of medium-range nuclear facilities deployed there by the United States and its North Atlantic bloc allies, which are capable of reaching vital centers in the USSR. One can only wonder that the American side continues to put on a serious air and insist on such an unrealistic proposal. Let the Soviet Union destroy all its medium-range missiles, and then the United States will retain inviolate its own nuclear facilities in Western Europe which are already targeted on the USSR.

What is really surprising is the artificial fears being strenuously displayed in Washington, allegedly caused by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's reminder that if the governments of the United States and its NATO allies, flouting the peoples' will for peace, still implemented their plan to deploy hundreds of new American missiles in Europe, this would force the USSR to adopt retaliatory measures which would place the other side, including the United States -- its own territory -- in an analogous position.

What do you expect, my good sirs? Have you really forgotten all about the principle of equality and identical security enshrined in bilateral Soviet-U.S. treaties and agreements and in the Helsinki Final Act -- documents which bear the signatures of U.S. presidents?

Do you really think the USSR would sit idly by if the United States and NATO deployed in Western Europe hundreds of missiles targeted on our cities, thereby severely disrupting the parity which now exists in armaments?

The militarist course and aggressive policy of the NATO bloc, headed by the United States, force us to adopt measures to maintain the country's defense capability at the necessary level. But we do not and will not spend on these purposes one ruble more than is absolutely necessary to ensure the security of our people and their friends and allies.

The new initiatives put forward by comrade L.I. Brezhnev open up a real opportunity for avoiding a dangerous new round in the nuclear arms race, ensuring security for East and West at a lower level. And there can be no doubt that the alternative proposed by the Soviet leadership to the senseless plan for launching a quantitative and qualitative arms race will be supported by all the peoples, including sensible Americans.

As Fulbright, a prominent American figure and former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated, "recent American public rallies have shown what a deep commitment the American people have to controlling and freezing nuclear armaments." Similar news is coming in now from literally all ends of the Earth, above all from Western Europe.

Noting the very wide echoes of L.I. Brezhnev's speech, a diplomatic observer for America's ABC television admitted that the new Soviet initiatives will probably strengthen antiwar actions both in Western Europe and in the United States. "In the struggle for public opinion," he said, "the USSR has clearly won a victory."

So we can look forward to a new upsurge in the struggle for disarmament, for ensuring the peoples' security and for peaceful international cooperation. The weighty words spoken by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev from the platform of our party's 26th congress are now more topical than ever: "Not preparations for war, which condemn the peoples to the senseless waste of their material and spiritual wealth, but the strengthening of peace -- that is the guiding star to tomorrow."

APN INTERVIEWS GENERAL CHERVOV ON USSR PROPOSALS

APN Daily Review

WA261640 Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 18 Mar 82 pp 1-5

[Interview with Col Gen Nikolay Chervov by NOVOSTI military analyst Vasily Morozov: "Major Contribution to Military Detente": "About Soviet Decision To Introduce a Unilateral Nuclear Freeze"]

[Text] NOVOSTI: The new initiatives made by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev at the 17th Soviet Trade Unions Congress emphatically reaffirm the USSR's steadfast commitment to the policies of peace, curbing the imperialist-launched race for weapons, and ridding mankind from the danger of nuclear war. Could you comment on the importance for Europe of the Soviet Government's latest decision to introduce, unilaterally, a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nucelar armaments in the European USSR, which was announced by Leonid Brezhnev.

Chernov: That decision of the Soviet Government is difficult to overestimate. Apparently, it will positively change the entire situation in Europe, and, of course, will exert a decisive influence on the course of the Geneva talks. The Soviet Union has made this resolute and noble step in the hope to prevent a dangerous turn made imminent by NATO's decision on siting new Pershings and cruise missiles in Western Europe, and to ease progress to a just agreement on a major reduction of nuclear weapons by both sides in Europe.

The USSR has announced its decision to introduce a unilateral freeze on the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European USSR. It is freezing, in both the quantitative and qualitative aspects, the armaments of this kind already stationed there, and is suspending the replacement of old missiles, known as the SS-4 and SS-5, by newer SS-20 missiles. In other words, the Soviet Union is discontinuing the upgrading of its medium-range missiles for a certain period of time.

For what period exactly? Leonid Brezhnev said that the Soviet freeze would stay in force beginning with the date of its announcement (March 16, 1982) and until there was an agreement with the U.S. on cutting medium-range nuclear armaments in Europe on the basis of equality and undiminished security, or until the U.S. if it chose to disregard international security, began practical preparations for deployments of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe.

In the context of its earlier voiced readiness to reduce part of its medium-range missiles under a freeze, the Soviet Union is planning to make a unilateral cut in its medium-range missile arsenal in Europe even in the current year, unless there is a new worsening of the international situation.

These initiatives are a new manifestation of the Soviet Union's sincere striving to avert nuclear danger and to build up international trust. The USSR has set yet another graphic example of what practical steps the states realizing their responsibility for the future of mankind should take. Not aggravated tensions, but constructive dialogue, the lowering of the level of military, especially, nuclear confrontation, and complete withdrawal of nuclear and other weapons of mass annihilation from Europe -- is the road which the Soviet Union is inviting the European nations to take. Said Leonid Brezhnev: "In announcing these decisions we are confident that the peoples of the world will appreciate the peaceable intentions and good will displayed by the Soviet Union. We also hope that our Western counterparts in the talks will be able to respond to this by constructive steps in the spirit of good will."

NOVOSTI: It is not ruled out that the leaders of the U.S. or some NATO top-rankers will try to brush aside these new, overriding Soviet initiatives. What arguments may they advance for doing so?

Chervov: Of course, they can brush them aside, as some Western leaders did in the past. Some irresponsible politicians may invent arguments to deceive their people. But they will no longer be able to dodge the solution of the problem without unmasking their aggressive essence before the eyes of the world public. References to propaganda, a "Soviet war menace," "Europe's lack of defenses," and all other similar "arguments" are only exposing the reluctance of those who invent them to engage in serious disarmament talks and their devil-may-care attitude to the destinies of the Europeans.

It would be a grave mistake to present the Soviet Union's decision to make a unilateral cut in its medium-range missiles, taken as an act of good will, as something which "goes without saying" and which was taken under U.S. pressure. Only naive and incompetent people may think that the USSR was pressured by the U.S. into making this bold step. Stressed Leonid Brezhnev: "We have chosen the road of championing peace once and for all. No imperialist provocations and threats will deflect us from that road."

Hopes to apply power politics to the Soviet Union are futile. At the 17th Trade Unions Congress Leonid Brezhnev expressed the Soviet attitude to this in no uncertain terms. Said he: "At the same time we regard it as our duty to make the following perfectly clear. If the governments of the United States and its NATO allies, in defiance of the will of the nations for peace, were actually to carry out their plan to deploy in Europe hundreds of new American missiles capable of striking targets on the territory of the Soviet Union, a different strategic situation would arise in the world. There would arise a real additional threat to our country and its allies from the United States. This would compel us to take retaliatory steps that would put the other side, including the United States itself, its own territory, in an analogous position. This would not be forgotten."

NOVOSTI: In your view, the new Soviet initiative on the one-sided moratorium will help reach agreement at the Geneva talks. How can this be done if the United States still sticks to Reagan's notorious "zero option"?

Chervov: One should, certainly, hope for constructive retaliatory steps on the part of the American side. This has not been the case up to now. Already today Washington's tactics are clear. While using the mythical "Soviet military superiority," it actually tries to infringe the existing balance and lay claims to military superiority over the Soviet Union.

The press has repeatedly noted that the Soviet proposals stipulate comprehensive far-reaching reductions in the two sides' medium-range missiles and aircraft, while the United States considers only land-based missiles and does not provide for any limitations on its own part. Washington's approach is one-sided, biased and not in line with the principles of equality and identical security.

Much has also been written about Reagan's "zero option," which still underlies the American stand. Today it has been fully compromised. To continue following it means to imitate a wood grouse who sees and hears nothing when it utters its mating call. Even the most zealous adherents of the "Reagan plan" in the West note the inconsistency of the American and NATO officials defending this false "zero."

Take the estimations of British and French nuclear armaments which are rather confused. On the one hand, Washington views its allied European countries as nearly part of American territory. On the other, it says that the allies' nuclear systems stored there have no relation to the problems discussed at the talks. The West openly says that each NATO ally makes its contribution to the general strategy of the bloc, including its military arsenals. In this situation demands that only the Soviet Union and the United States formally level out their medium-range nuclear forces in Europe are nothing but attempts to achieve military advantages for NATO.

But it is clear to everybody that even if the USSR's nuclear forces are equal to those of Britain and France, the Soviet side receives no advantages. The potential of Soviet medium-range nuclear systems would be limited by a rigorous minimum determined, in the main, by the size of Britain's and France's nuclear arsenals. Like before, Washington, apparently, seeks to preserve the possibility to have near the Soviet borders nuclear systems capable of hitting key objectives on Soviet territory or, at least, to consolidate and, perhaps, increase its unilateral advantage in this respect. This is openly stated by Washington officials.

The Soviet side prepared constructive proposals for the Geneva talks. We suggest large reductions in medium-range nuclear systems and indicate which of these we are ready to reduce. The United States lacks any realistic stand. It still follows the 1979 NATO decisions and even their worst variant.

The talks can be a success, if both sides show goodwill and readiness to search for mutually acceptable decisions. Such goodwill and readiness underlie the Soviet proposals at the talks and the new Soviet initiative on the onesided moratorium. We are waiting for a constrictive contribution from the American side.

Washington will, probably, not be marking time and waiting for unilateral Soviet concessions. It is unreasonable to impede advancement at the talks and thus to nonplus itself. The Soviet Union demonstrates a good example of trust and expects the same from the United States

RUDE PRAVO Report

AU251221 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Mar 82 p 6

[Report on interview with Soviet Col Gen Nikolay Chervov by APN military commentator Vasiliy Morozov: "A Resolute and Noble Step: General Chervov on the Soviet Government's Decision To Unilaterally Introduce a Moratorium on the Deployment of Nuclear Medium-range Missiles in the USSR's European Part"; date and place not given]

[Text] In an interview given to APN military commentator Vasiliy Morozov, Soviet military-political expert Col Gen Nikolay Chervov has said that it can be presumed that the decision of the Soviet Government to unilaterally introduce a moratorium on the deployment of nuclear medium-range missiles in the European part of the USSR will also have an effect on the further course of the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva. This resolute and noble step has been taken by the Soviet Union in the hope that it will prevent a dangerous turn looming as the consequence of the NATO decision on West Europe's "military augmentation" with new Pershing and cruise missiles, and will make achieving a just agreement on a marked reduction of nuclear devices by both sides in Europe easier.

Nikolay Chervov further said that this decision means that the nuclear medium-range missiles, which have already been deployed in the European part of the USSR, are being frozen in a quantitative as well as qualitative sense, and that the substituting of the old missiles, known as SS-4 and SS-5, for the newer SS-20 is being suspended. This means that the Soviet Union stops for a certain time the modernization of its medium-range missiles.

[Question] For how long?

[Answer] L. Brezhnev has said that the moratorium will remain in effect (beginning with 16 March 1982 -- the day of L. Brezhnev's speech) either until an agreement is reached with the United States on the reduction of nuclear medium-range missiles destined for Europe on the basis of equality and equal security, or until such time as the U.S. representatives, at variance with the interest of the nations' security, would after all start practical preparations for the deployment of Pershing II missiles and missiles with a flat trajectory in Europe.

The Soviet Union, in the spirit of its already earlier expressed willingness to reduce, in the conditions of the moratorium, some types of its medium-range missiles, is determined already today -- provided the international situation does not become aggravated again -- to reduce on its own initiative the number of its medium-range missiles.

By this, as a new sign of the Soviet Union's sincere endeavor to avert the threat of nuclear war and strengthen mutual trust among nations, another telling example was provided that states which feel a responsibility for mankind's peaceful future must express themselves in deeds and not words. Not the aggravation of confrontation but a constructive dialogue, reducing the level of military equilibrium -- especially in the nuclear sphere, a total elimination from Europe of the nuclear and also other mass destruction weapons -- is the path proposed by the Soviet Union to the European nations. "We are imparting these decisions," L.I. Brezhnev said, "and are convinced that nations throughout the world will appreciate the peace-loving and good will of the Soviet Union. We also hope that our Western partners, with whom we are negotiating, will also respond with constructive steps in the spirit of good will."

[Question] The U.S. representatives and some other NATO officials are trying to belittle also this latest Soviet initiative. What are their objections?

[Answer] They can, of course, belittle these proposals, the same as on more than one occasion by some Western representatives. They cite "propaganda," "Soviet military threat," the "defenselessness of Europe" and similar things -- but all these and similar "arguments" only convince that their authors do not wish to conduct serious disarmament talks and of their being totally contemptuous of the Europeans' fate.

The attempts to present the Soviet Union's decision on the unilateral reduction of the medium-range missiles as some "matter of course," and moreover as if it was adopted due to the pressure of the United States, are rather poor. Only persons naive and uninformed in this respect can think that the USSR took such a courageous step as a result of U.S. pressure.

Betting on the "policy of strength" vis-a-vis the Soviet Union has no future. At the trade union congress, L.I. Brezhnev said very clearly in this context: "At the same time, we regard it as our duty to quite unequivocally draw attention to the fact that should the governments of the United States and its NATO allies ignore the nations' yearning for peace, and despite this deploy in Europe hundreds of new American missiles capable of hitting objects on USSR territory, a different strategic situation in the world would ensue. Also, a new, real danger for our country and its allies from the side of the United States would ensue. And thus we would be forced to resort to such retaliatory measures which would put the other side, including the United States, into a similar situation. One should not forget that."

[Question] You said that the latest Soviet initiative on the unilateral moratorium will make achieving agreement during the Geneva negotiations easier. But what if the United States, like before, clings to the Reagan infamous "zero option"?

[Answer] Of course, the best thing would be for the American side to respond with a constructive step. Until now, this has not been the case. And the U.S. tactics are clear to everyone now: Under the pretext of "Soviet military superiority" they are in fact striving to upset the existing parity and for a military superiority over the USSR.

The press has more than once noted that if the Soviet Union's proposals foresee a comprehensive, far-reaching reduction of U.S. and USSR medium-range missiles and aviation devices [letecke prostredky], then the U.S. approach to this issue -- taking into consideration only missiles launched from ground pads -- is onesided, prejudiced and does not correspond to the principle of equality and equal security. This approach does not count on any reduction on the American side.

Much has been written also about the so-called Reagan "zero option," which is for the time being the basic U.S. position. Now it is totally compromised. Clinging to it is tantamount to imitating a woodcock, which -- when emitting a mating call -- does not see or hear anything. Even some zealous proponents of the "Reagan plan" in the West have to admit that the arguments of those U.S. and NATO officials, who are defending that false "zero," are inconsequential. Only one example: The supremely confused calculation with the British and French nuclear weapons. On the one hand, Washington representatives regard the territories of its allies in Europe as being almost the territory of the United States itself; on the other hand, they express themselves in a sense as if the nuclear devices on the allies, territories had nothing in common with the problem being assessed. Each of the NATO members -- and in the West this is openly discussed -- contributes in his way to the common strategy of the pact as well as to its military arsenal. In such conditions, the demand for a formal equilibrium of only USSR and United States nuclear medium-range missiles in Europe is an obvious attempt to achieve NATO's military superiority. The Soviet potential of nuclear medium-range missiles in Europe has been restricted to the set minimum, determined in essence by the extent of the British and French arsenals.

I am probably not wrong if I say that the United States, now as before, is in any case striving to continue to maintain the possibility of having at its disposal near the USSR border, that is on our very doorstep, nuclear devices capable of hitting vitally important objects on Soviet territory, or at least to strengthen the U.S. unilateral superiority in this respect, and perhaps even increase it. They are openly talking about this in Washington.

The Soviet side has not come to the Geneva talks emptyhanded. We propose an extensive reduction of nuclear medium-range devices, and specifically say what the USSR is prepared to reduce. The United States lacks a realistic stance. It remains the prisoner of the NATO plan of 1979 -- moreover, of its worst version.

Success at the talks can be achieved if the two sides show good will and the determination to find mutually acceptable solutions. Precisely this good willpermeates the Soviet proposals at the talks and the new Soviet initiative on the unilateral moratorium. The Soviet Union expects the American side's constructive contribution.

REACTIONS TO BREZHNEV'S TASHKENT SPEECH

Shishlin Commentary

LD251658 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0045 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Topical Problems of International Life" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech in Tashkent attracted widespread attention from the international public. This applies, of course, both to the internal aspects of Comrade Brezhnev's speech and to those questions of foreign policy which were raised in the speech; they are now the subject of animated comment and debate in all the world's capitals.

It seems to me if one compares, and takes as a whole, all the recent speeches of Leonid Ilich as far as their foreign-policy aspects are concerned, a very complete picture of the foreign policy aims of our state emerges. The Soviet Union wants peace for itself, peace for its neighbors far and near, peace for the whole world. In Leonid Ilich's speeches one can see very clearly that aspect of the Soviet Union's approach to foreign policy which I would call the absence of any sort of selective approach. Indeed, Leonid Ilich, in his recent speeches, raised the question of the need for the United States to conduct a more balanced, more considered, less adventuristic policy in Central America and the Caribbean region, which as you know, the United States has proclaimed a sphere of its vital interests and where it is openly trying to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries in that area. Particularly crude pressure is being exerted against socialist Cuba and Nicaragua, not to mention El Salvador where, to a considerable extent due to the fault of the Americans, blood is being shed. The Soviet Union, as is known, has consistently advocated an all-embracing political settlement of the Near East crisis. The Near East conflict and our proposals on this score, as one need hardly recall, stand firmly on the recognition of the rights of the Arab peoples who have been the victims of Israeli aggression, and on recognition of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine, who certainly have the right to exist in a separate, independent Palestinian state.

The Soviet Union displays a constant interest and is active in the continent in which a considerable part of our country is located -- Europe -- and now, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's Tashkent speech contains very important thoughts and very important ideas about the affairs of the vast region of Asia. As you know, in itself, the Soviet Union's foreign policy constitutes an overall, not, as I say, selective, policy. In Asia, it is not based on a clean sheet; it does not begin with a clean sheet. We have quite well-developed relations with many Asian states, and very close, friendly relations with such countries as the Mongolian People's Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, where, in the near future, the fifth congress of the Vietnamese Communists is to begin its work. We have close relations with revolutionary Laos, with Kampuchea, and with other Asian states. A considerable positive force in the policy of peace in Asia is undoubtedly formed by the good Soviet-Indian relations, of which Leonid Ilich Brezhnev spoke so meaningfully and vividly in Tashkent.

Incidentally, the developed nature of Soviet-Indian relations was again confirmed quite recently by the success of the visit to India by Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense. But relations with some countries are undoubtedly reserved and certain opportunities have not yet been taken. And frequently, unfortunately, these reservations exist. These opportunities are not being taken through the fault of those parties to whom we are offering truly equitable, truly mutually beneficial and truly peaceful cooperation. As Leonid Ilich said, as far as the economic relations we have with Japan are concerned, there is a certain mutually beneficial cooperation between us, but as for political cooperation, as for trust in the relations between our country and Japan, there is of course a serious lack of such trust and political cooperation. There are various reasons for this. On the one hand, there is undoubtedly an influence from the interest of certain external forces which would consider it beneficial to themselves if Japan would follow step by step behind the actions of present-day Washington. And the United States is undoubtedly trying

to make use of Japan's own strategic interests in the region of the Far East and the Pacific as a factor with which to exert a certain pressure on the Soviet Union, which is undoubtedly contrary to Japan's own vital interests. Japan would gain a great deal more if it had, in addition to certain relations with the United States -- and no one objects to Japanese-American relations as such, but only to their nature -- broad, fruitful relations with the Soviet Union as well. This would be a gain for the Japanese, it would be a gain for all the countries in that zone and it would, of course, be a gain for our country.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's ideas, addressed to the Japanese ruling circles, suggesting that they should return to the Soviet proposals for working out and applying measures of trust in the Far East zone, seem very valuable to me. There is no particular harm in the fact that certain countries are still taking a cautious attitude to this idea and are not ready to get down to practical discussions about it. It could also be put in the framework of bilateral Soviet-Japanese relations. It is now up to Tokyo.

One cannot, of course, fail to mention the fact that nevertheless many complications in our relations with Japan come from the fact that the political circles of that country itself sometimes create such barriers in the path of the steady development of Soviet-Japanese relations as they themselves would certainly find it quite difficult to overcome. [as heard] But I repeat that really, the Soviet approach to relations with Japan, a major country, an influential country, is without any kind of prejudice, and the Soviet Union is ready to base these relations on a true foundation of goodneighborliness and equality.

And, of course, one of the greatest cardinal questions of all the Soviet Union's Asian Policy is the question of our relations with China. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, in his Tashkent speech, set out with great clarity the Soviet approach to relations with China. This is, in effect a continuation of the line which was worked out and approved by the 25th and 26th congresses of our party. Today, China certainly presents a contradictory picture as regards that country's internal and foreign policy actions. China continues to be shaken by all sorts of political campaigns, and of course, the present Chinese leadership is clearly expending a lot of effort and energy on the internal squabble within the upper echelon of the Chinese leaders, which is still going on. It is noteworthy that now it is being said in China that the Chinese Communist Party Congress, which should have been held last year, seems likely to be postponed again, perhaps until the end of 1982.

I repeat that this is really a very complex, patchy, contradictory Chinese picture, and it would certainly be very difficult to call many aspects of Chinese policy -- particularly foreign policy -- aspects of a socialist foreign policy. But as Leonid Ilich absolutely justly stressed, we have never doubted the socialist nature of the social order which exists in China. As for the consistency of our foreign policy positions, this is again clearly seen in our firm position of nonrecognition of the so-called two Chinas principle. We have always considered that Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory. This, by the way, is in revealing contrast to the approach of the United States, which in effect, of course, preaches the existence of two Chinas, and although the United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan it does in fact have the widest political, economic and military contacts with that island. The Soviet Union as is known, has always favored the settlement of those matters of dispute which exist between our country and the PRC and the door to the improvement of relations with China has always been held open by the Soviet Union. This concerns in particular negotiations on frontier questions. The Soviet Union has no territorial claims of any kind on China, and of course the Soviet-Chinese frontier should be a frontier of peace and goodneighborliness, which would be in the interests of both the Soviet and Chinese peoples.

The Soviet Union does maintain certain contacts with China. It is no secret to anyone that we have diplomatic relations with that country. There is a modest scientific exchange, there are quite modest economic relations, but I repeat that all this is very modest, since the murky shadow of China's foreign policy -- a policy hostile to the Soviet Union and in many ways hostile to the interests of peace -- is cast over everything.

It is precisely in the interest of creating a better atmosphere in Soviet-Chinese relations, in the interests of advancing to some more sensible basis of relationship, that the new Soviet proposals concerning the development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and China are made in every field where there is mutual will for such cooperation.

In effect, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech concerning the Asian continent, Asian problems, is broad and thoughful in dealing with the approaches which are formulated as a whole by the Soviet Union in foreign policy matters. It constitutes a new appeal by the Soviet Union for a link-up with those countries to save the highest values in the world, and there is nothing more valuable than that people should live in peace, live calmly, work calmly knowing that no war storm is going to disturb their peaceful labor. And returning to that with which we began, namely to the unified nature of Soviet foreign policy, we can stress again that the Soviet Union really aims to unite the efforts of states, ruling circles and the public in the interests of a radical improvement in the world's political climate. And the Soviet Union not only calls for the unification of these efforts, but also indicates practical ways as to how the world can be made calmer and safer. And finally, as far as the Soviet Union's own position is concerned, it is not niggardly in showing good will, showing by its own deeds and actions an example of how one should approach today's international problems in our difficult and complex nuclear age, in a considered manner and with feeling of responsibility.

Zolkhover Observation

LD251802 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Our observer Aleksandr Zholkver comments on President Brezhnev's speech in Tashkent, capital of Soviet Uzbekistan. This is what he writes:

The speech vividly shows the consistency of the Soviet Union's foreign policy of peace. It recalls the new major initiatives spelled out by President Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at the Soviet trade union congress. They provide for stopping unilaterally the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in the European part of the Soviet Union and even for reducing a certain number of such missiles. Simultaneously the Soviet Union suggested other measures to limit military activities of countries from restricting the zone of action of missile-carrying submarines to making commitments by both sides -- the USSR and the United States -- not to deploy long-range cruise missiles.

In his speech in Tashkent President Brezhnev backed up these initiatives by a number of proposals to consolidate peace and security in Asia. The Soviet Union again suggests to Asian countries an agreement to be reached on measures of mutual trust in the Far East. Such measures could be discussed both on a collective basis and bilaterally. Such discussion could be started, for instance, with Japan. The Soviet Union pledged its readiness to cooperate with this major Asian country extensively and to mutual advantage.

Despite hindrance by some external forces opportunities for such cooperation do exist. It can well develop despite the differences in social and political systems if both sides strictly observe the principle of noninterference in each other's affairs and commit themselves to respecting the specific features of each other's foreign policies. Twenty-five years of friendship between the Soviet Union and India provide a good example. In his speech in Tashkent President Brezhnev spoke highly of this cooperation, which not only adds to both sides' security but also creates a major zone of peace and stability in Asia.

It is certainly clear to all how important Soviet-Chinese relations are for peace on that continent and in the world as a whole. On this point too President Brezhnev reaffirmed the Soviet Union's good will and peaceful intentions. He repeated that the Soviet Union had no territorial claims to China and is ready to continue talks with it any time on both border issues and measures to consolidate mutual trust. The Soviet Union is prepared to hold talks without any preconditions on bettering Soviet-Chinese relations on the basis of mutual respect for interests, noninterference in each other's affairs and obviously no damage to third countries.

So whether in Europe or in Asia, both on bilateral and multilateral relations, the Soviet Union suggest concrete and constructive measures to prevent the threat of a world nuclear war and curb the arms race. In his speech in Tashkent President Brezhnev stressed that this struggle will be waged until the danger has been removed and a lasting peace has been ensured.

U.S. CBW FACILITIES, USE, PROGRAM DESCRIBED

LD260014 Moscow in English to North America 0200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] In 1970 the United States announced to the world it was giving up the production, the use of and the stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. At the same time a decision was made to destroy the existing stocks of these weapons. For this reason there has been a natural reaction by the Voice of America and by New York TIMES to attack Radio Moscow for a recent announcement that an American laboratory in Lahore, Pakistan, is developing banned biological weapons. A Voice of America special correspondent, Fred Brown, who was dispatched to Lahore, claimed in his report on 5 March that the U.S. lab in Lahore was engaged in a rather uplifting cause of exploring various methods to combat malaria. What the American correspondent kept silent about is the subject of a story in the Moscow-based weekly LITERATURNAYA GAZETA by its correspondent Iona Andronov who has visited this laboratory in the Pakistani city.

To begin with, having visited Lahire, the Voice of America correspondent said nothing about the fact that the Pakistani authorities have expelled the director of the U.S. lab, David Nellin. Before he left for home the official, too, attacked Radio Moscow broadcasts, though he did admit publicly that in Pakistan he had friction with the local authorities on what he put in this way: There were objections based on reports of biological warfare research at the laboratory. The accusations appeared in the Lahore weekly VIEWPOINT. On four occasions in the past 18 months the magazine reported that the American lab, under the guise of combating malaria, was contaminating thousands of mosquitoes with viruses of lethal epidemic diseases and was testing the mosquitoes on Pakistani residents. There was no mention either of the fact that the latest annual report from this lab, financed by the United States government, contains a documentary account of contamination of large numbers of mosquitoes with the virus of encephalitis. But last year competent Afghan officials caught the U.S. CIA red-handed as it was trying to use the Lahore insect incubator to produce an outbreak of encepahlitis among nomadic tribes in Afghanistan and Pakistan engaged in cattle raising. That report gave thorough details of the methods to contaminate African mosquitoes, known as Aedes aegypti, with infection. This variety of mosquito caused a sudden outbreak of epidemic diseases on Cuba. As Cuban doctors said, the CIA was spraying over their country disease-carriers of the same species.

For purposes of disguise the American viral war arsenal in Lahore was officially known as the Pakistan Medical Research Center. However, the center's annual report has a clear inscription over the title page -- University of Maryland. This means the Lahore center is a branch of the University of Maryland and the administration of that university was registered officially 5 years ago as engaging in the development of various components of biochemical weapons on orders of the CIA.

Now let's move to mainland America, the State of Maryland. For many years now the Army township of Fort Detrick has been fenced off from the world and guarded on all sides round the clock. Only select Army servicemen and CIA officials are allowed to enter by special passes, and only if they carry medical certificates about inoculations against 20 different diseases: smallpox, bubonic plague, tropical fever, anthrax and all sorts of other lethal infections the (?biochemists of) the Washington intelligence service and the Pentagon have been testing there for years.

In 1955 the Fort Detrick researchers killed a dozen Americans in Florida as they tested whooping cough bacteria on their proving ground there. In the sixties and seventies they sprayed biological warfare agents to destroy crops in countries of Indochina and on Cuba. Last February, according to an announcement by the El Salvador Committee of Trade Union Unity, bombs containing an American powder causing hemorrhagic conjunctivitis were dropped on concentrations of Salvadoran insurgents.

The researchers at Fort Detrick have developed 37 different biological warfare agents. The laboratory was headed by the head of the CIA technical service division, Sidney Gottlieb, a biochemist. In 1975 and 1977 he was called to testify in the senate subcommittee investigating illegal CIA operations. He was told at once he wouldn't be punished and was asked what methods the CIA was going to use to poison Fidel Castro and Patrice Lumumba. It was established during the questioning of Sidney Gottlieb in the Senate that the CIA tried on three occasions to send visitors to Fidel Castro with friendly gifts -- cigars filled with a toxin called (?butalinum), a scuba-diving outfit impregnated with tuberculosis germs and a so-called black leaf pen that shoots poison. And, Sidney Gottlieb testified, to kill Patrice Lumumba a poison was developed at Fort Detrick on an African recipe. Gottlieb took it personnaly to the Congo, but by that time CIA agents had already staged the bloody murder of the Congolese leader.

Sidney Gottlieb did use a poison, though, against another victim of the CIA. As a gift he sent to a military leader in Baghdad a set of silk handkerchiefs impregnated with brucellosis germs.

The LITERATURNAYA GAZETA writer draws the attention to readers to an internal CIA memo called Contingency Plans for Stockpiling of Biological Warfare Agents, dated 16 February 1970. For the sake of brevity we shall leave out minor details.

To the CIA director: "On 25 November 1969 President Nixon ordered the Department of Defense to recommend plans for the disposal of existing stocks of bacteriological weapons. Under an established agreement with the Department of the Army, the CIA has a limited quantity of biological agents and toxins stored and maintained by the Special Operations Division at Fort Detrick. The stockpile did not appear on the inventory list. The agents and toxins are: anthrax, (?tumerimia), encephalitia, (?Valley) fever, brucellosis, tuberculosis, salmonella, (?tisamorium), that is, food poisoning, smallpox, staphylococcus, (?entero) toxin -- also food poisoning, (?plastrudium), (?botulinium) type A -- a lethal food poisoning, paralytic shellfish poison, (?craik) -- a lethal snake venom, intestinal flu and (?toxiferrin), paralytical effect. In the event of decision is made by the Department of Defense to dispose of existing stocks of bacteriological weapons, it is possible that the CIA stockpile, even though in R and D quantities, and unlisted, will be destroyed. If the CIA director wishes to continue this special capability it is recommended that if the above Department of Defense decision is made, the existing agency stockpile and Special Research Division, Fort Detrick, be transferred to the Huntington Research Center, Becton, Dickinson Company, Baltimore, Maryland."

Signed by the deputy CIA director for plans, Thomas N. Karamessines.

That was the real meaning of the United States' Government's sweeping pledge to the world to join the international ban on biological weapons. It became known only 5 years later that in 1970 the CIA Director Helms, his deputy Karamessines and their chief alchemist Gottlieb made an arrangement to secretly conceal their poisons in various hiding places. Besides renting secretly the warehouse from the Baltimore company, Sidney Gottlieb equipped a new lab in Baltimore where a so-called (?biogen) machine was built to ensure mass production of micro-agents causing epidemics. Documentary evidence of this was traced by an organization calling itself American Citizens for Honesty in Government.

Prior to the summer of 1975 the CIA had in its Washington DC building next to the U.S. State Department another lab and a warehouse for shellfish toxins, strychnine, cobra venom and other toxins affecting the brain, kidneys and blood vessels. There was a total of 19 different poison chemicals stored there. They were disposed of by three of Sidney Gottlieb's assistants under the supervision of Dr (Nathan Gordon), recruited by the CIA.

When Dr (Gordon) retired on pension he revealed a great secret. At the time CIA toxins were taken away from Fort Detrick nearly all biological warfare agents of the United States Army were transferred from there to the Maryland Edgewood Arsenal. The White House secretly endorsed the transfer and so on in the autumn of 1975, an Army spokesman admitted calmly, and we quote: "Research involving the toxins has been going on at Edgewood since 1970 and is still in progress."

There is no need for comment.

U.S. ALLEGATIONS ON SOVIET CBW PLANS REFUTED

State Department Report

LD260336 Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 25 Mar 82

[By TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- As protests of the international public against the United States' militaristic plans connected with unrestrained stockpiling of armaments, including chemical armaments, are widening, Washington exerts ever more efforts to conceal its aggressive designs and actions under the cover of lies. Another confirmation of this is the publicity given in Washington to another "report" of the U.S. Department of State which repeats the hackneyed allegations that the Soviet Union used chemical weapons either in Afghanistan or in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

All these fables are nothing but vicious slander which cannot cast a slur on the honest and consistent line of the Soviet Union which, unlike the United States, was among the first countries to join the 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical weapons. If there is anything new in the method which is used by certain U.S. circles in an effort to denigrate the USSR and its policy, it is only one thing: Special services and various radio stations were instructed in the past to do the sordid work of fabricating and spreading falsehoods, whereas representatives of the Washington administration, including members of the Reagan Cabinet, now assume more and more often the task of spreading misinformation, insinuations and slander.

It is apparent that some people try to give weight to ill-intentioned anti-Soviet allegations by references to high officials. But who will be deceived by these brazen lies? The whole world knows that the Soviet Union declared consistently and declares for outlawing chemical weapons, the criminal means of warfare, for destroying all its stockpiles, that it never used warfare toxic agents anywhere.

As to the United States, the world has not forgotten that in the years of the U.S. aggression in Indochina tens of thousands of toxic agents were sprayed over Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea. Chemical weapons which are supplied to gangs of terrorists that penetrate sovereign Afghanistan have the hallmark "Made in the USA." And the programme of the United States' "chemical rearming" proclaimed recently by the White House, the programme costing many billions of dollars, shows that huge stockpiles of toxic agents at the disposal of the U.S. Government and the Pentagon are not enough for them any longer and they plan to equip the U.S. Armed Forces with millions of warheads with the deadly nerve gas mixture -- binary shells.

Spreading falsehoods and insinuations, Washington would like, on the one hand, to shift from the United States the responsibility for the crimes which mark its bloody path in countries of Indochina and, on the other hand, to "substantiate," no matter what, its militaristic programmes [which are] dangerous for entire humanity, including the American people. But these calculations are futile. The only thing to be achieved by those in Washington who compose the ill-intentioned falsehoods is to cause an even greater fall of the international prestige of their country, the prestige of the Washington administration. A lie will remain a lie even if it is repeated many times and comes from the U.S. State Department.

'Skepticism' in West

PM251031 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 4

[TASS report: "Rebuff to Slanderous Fabrications"]

[Text] London, 16 Mar -- Washington's slanderous allegations about the use of Soviet-manufactured "chemical weapons" in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea are a source of derision even in countries which are close allies of the United States. A growing number of representatives of the West European public are coming to the conclusion that the Washington administration's chemical "canard" is designed for one thing only: to justify plans for the sharp expansion of the chemical warfare arsenal in the United States itself.

Under the headline "Skepticism Greets U.S. Chemical War Claim" the influential London newspaper THE TIMES publishes an article which casts doubt on statements by spokesmen of R. Reagan's administration on the "chemical warfare" allegedly being waged in Afghanistan. "Western diplomats are puzzled by these allegations," the newspaper points out. They cannot imagine how the United States intends to prove that "3,042 Afghans have suffered" from chemical weapons. Such "precision" by itself is suspicious and it cannot fail to engender bouts in the honesty of this information, the THE TIMES says.

As the newspaper attests, Western journalists have questioned hundreds of Afghans, even those hostile to the people's government in Kabul, who are now in Pakistan. They have never managed to "obtain any reliable reports of chemical attacks." Reporters have even managed to penetrate secretly into Afghanistan, but they have not managed to get "any proof of the use of chemical weapons" there either. It is simply amazing that in 2 years of persistent hunting for this sort of evidence nothing has been discovered, THE TIMES notes with irony.

The presitigious London journal NEW SCIENTIST has published an article by a number of distinguished British scientists who stress that it is the United States and Britain, too, which were initiators of the escalation of chemical armaments in the postwar period. The authors point to Washington's attempt to get permission from its West European partners to deploy so-called binary chemical weapons on their territory. The United States is yet again trying to justify such a step by citing the notorious "Soviet threat." Yet, NEW SCIENTIST stresses, "there is no concrete corroboration for the statements by the U.S. administration that the USSR is using chemical weapons and also that stockpiles are being built up in the Soviet Union."

U.S., SOVIET APPROACHES TO CBW CONTRASTED

LD111334 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0715 GMT 11 Mar 82

["Topical Problems of International Life" program entitled: "Criminal Plans of the Pentagon -- Preparations for Chemical Warfare," presented by Lev Seminovich Semeyko, candidate of military science]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The decision of the Reagan administration on the mass production of chemical weapons, including binary gases, has aroused angry protests from broad sections of the world public. This decision is justly seen as the beginning of a new twist to the arms race, like many others initiated by the United States since the war. No, this is a qualitatively new twist, particularly dangerous to the cause of peace, and particularly dangerous to lives of millions and millions of people.

Modern military poisonous substances constitute a weapon of tremenous damaging force. Just one milligram, or even half a milligram, of some of these substances is enough to kill a man. The U.S. Army already has about 3 million chemical artillery shells and hundreds of thousands of other forms of munitions charged with poisonous chemicals. Now, having colossal potential in chemical weapons capable of virtually destroying the entire population of the Earth, the United States is setting about a further major buildup.

The first chemical shell to explode could bring about unpredictable consequences. Where is the guarantee that after the explosion of a chemical shell, the explosion of a neutron shell will not follow? After the neutron one, a tactical-nuclear one; after that, a nuclear warhead on a medium-range missile or even on an intercontinental one? In brief, from chemical to nuclear, then thermonuclear weapons -- this could be the chain reaction of universal destruction which the Pentagon strategists are preparing. This is not only a Soviet point of view. Here for instance is what is said in one of the recent reports produced by the UN Secretariat: Chemical warfare opens the way to an armed conflict that could be less controlled and less controllable than all the wars of the past. Uncontrollable military operations are incompatible with the concept of military security. This is an important qualitative aspect of the new chemical twist to the arms race.

There is also another aspect. This twist can only increase the aggressiveness of U.S. military strategy. Why? The point is that chemical weapons are primarily offensive weapons. They are capable of destroying the enemy's personnel but leaving material objects undamaged. It is clear that according to the Pentagon's calculations this makes it possible to conduct offensive operations via undamaged territory, and therefore to advance more rapidly. Note that neutron weapons have the same capability; therefore, the combined use of chemical and neutron weapons, to all appearances, is clearly the Pentagon's aim. They would like to achieve their political aims in war without endangering U.S. or European territory, to be able to take over this territory with all its material wealth, which, they think, would be preserved to the maximum extent.

Such strategic calculations can lead to only one thing: to the strengthening of the impulse to start a war, a war which, if waged cleverly, from the Pentagon's point of view, could bring the United States victory. Such calculations are of course illusory. War with the use of means of mass destruction will not bring victory to the one who would like to start it. But the fact remains that the chemical twist to the arms race can make it easier for the United States to make the decision to start a conflict and one cannot fail to take account of this. This represents a tremendous danger to all states and peoples.

The paradoxical picture is created: The United States declares that to reach progress in talks on banning chemical weapons, it needs to be in a strong position in these weapons. That is, it is necessary to first create more powerful potential in chemical weapons in order to exert pressure on the Soviet Union. First there is no logic in the idea of arming in order to disarm. Yet the United States is applying this logic in all fields: in chemical weapons, in strategic nuclear weapons, in medium-range nuclear weapons -- everywhere arming is applied under the false pretext that it will facilitate subsequent disarmament.

Second, there is no need to exert any kind of pressure on the Soviet Union in the matter of chemical disarmament. Unlike the United States and the other imperialist states, the Soviet Union has never resorted to the use of chemical weapons and is a resolute opponent of them. The Soviet Union was one of the first to ratify the Geneva Protocol of 1925 on banning the use in war of chemical and bacteriological weapons. Let it be noted in passing that the United States took 50 years to accede to the Geneva Protocol. It was the Soviet Union that initiated talks on banning chemical weapons. It was our country, together with other socialist countries, which 12 years ago, in September 1969, proposed a draft convention banning chemical weapons. It is the Soviet Union that is doing all it can to solve this problem as soon as possible. How can one talk of the need for any sort of pressure on the Soviet Union in these conditions? The more so if one recalls that in July 1980, almost 2 years ago, the United States totally broke off the Soviet-U.S. talks on banning this form of mass destuction. It becomes clear in this connection that these talks are merely an obstacle for the United States in its desire to build up its own arsenal of poisonous substances.

It was no coincidence that the United States was the only power at the recent 36th UN General Assembly session to vote against a resolution containing an appeal to the Soviet Union and United States to resume the interrupted talks as soon as possible, and against a recommendation to all states to refrain from producing and deploying new forms of chemical weapons and from placing chemical weapons on the territory of those states where there are none at present.

Washington uses another "argument," I would say, to justify its new twist to the chemical arms race. The USSR, you see, is a mighty chemical power, and the NATO countries are said to be threatened by great danger. Yes, the Soviet Union is indeed a power with a highly developed chemical industry, but this does not at all mean that the USSR is actively preparing for chemical warfare with the intention of the widespread use of poisonous substances. One may cite the testimony of Brown, the former U.S. defense secretary, Senator Hart, and others. A British scientist, in a statement recently published in THE GUARDIAN, also points out that all that can be proved about the Soviet Union's high state of chemical warfare readiness is that it has high readiness in means of protection against poisonous substances. But this is quite another matter.

There are now other winds blowing in the United States. They are talking there, with no foundation whatsoever, of the United States' mythical disadvantage in stockpiles of chemical weapons. But what stockpiles are these, what disadvantage? The United States considers these data secret. A hazy picture is deliberately being created and is now being used by the present U.S. leadership in waging its new hypocritical campaign about the Soviet threat, on this occasion a campaign about Soviet chemical supremacy. These are worn-out old tricks. We have frequently heard myths about Soviet military supremacy. The latest, chemical myth, so to say, adds nothing. It only shows the true aims of the United States: to acquire real supremacy all fields of armaments and thus create universal military supremacy over the Soviet Unio and the Warsaw Treaty states.

U.S. chemical weapons are intended primarily for use in Europe, both because this continent is the main theater of military operations from Washington's point of view and because chemical weapons are most effective when used in densely populated regions. This is where the United States would like to deploy its stockpiles of the new binary gases. It is where the United States also wants to deploy cruise missiles, which could carry not only nuclear weapons but chemical ones over thousands of kilometers. But these weapons and intentions -- and this also applies to neutron weapons -- arouse the indignation of the peoples of the European countries. They do not want to be nuclear, chemical or neutron hostages of the U.S. politicians and strategists, who in any matter, be it political, military or economic, have always tried to safeguard U.S. interests above all others.

The leaders of the United States are trying to convince the Western Europeans that the chemical arming of the United States is being done allegedly in the interests of deterring a chemical attack by the USSR, and therefore it is said to be in the interests of Western Europe. But this is total deception. In the first place, the Soviet Union is not an aggressive state. It has never had a single problem it would intend to solve by military means, and has none now. How can one talk of deterring our country here? The theory of deterrence is a theory dreamed up with the intention of justifying the continual buildup of the military potential of the NATO countries. Second, the buildup of the U.S. chemical potential is yet another threat, not only to the Soviet Union and its allies but to the allies of the United States itself; a threat covered with peace-loving phrases. But the implementation of this threat is being prepared, a crime is being prepared.

In this connection it would appear to be pertinent to recall how the U.S. leadership at one time wanted to cover up the use of chemical weapons in Vietnam. Even the smallest details were thought out -- for example, the possibility of dressing U.S. airmen in civilian clothes, of putting false identification marks on the aircraft and even of persuading the pilots that if they should be taken prisoner, the U.S. Government would disown them.

Nolting, the U.S. ambassador in South Vietnam at the time, even proposed putting the inscription "civilian freight" on the chemical containers. About 100,000 tons of this civilian freight were dropped by the United States in Indochina. Over 2 million Vietnamese became victims of chemical warfare, as did tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers. All vegetation was destroyed on almost half the arable area. The attempts to conceal this U.S. crime in Vietnam did not succeed.

Nor will the preparation for a crime on a still larger scale, a crime against all mankind, be successfully concealed. After all, the United States is now preparing a qualitatively different chemical war in which it intends to use not only defoliants but the latest extremely toxic substances.

The peoples of Europe recognize that it is not the Soviet Union which is the reason for this preparation. They recognize this however much the bourgeois propaganda tries to convince them of the opposite. The reason lies in the attempt by the United States to gain military supremacy, not in the Soviet Union's efforts to strengthen its defensive capability. These efforts are capable only of really deterring those who would like to achieve their aims by military means.

The other day at a dinner in the Kremlin in honor the the Polish party and state delegation, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev again stressed: Yes, we maintain the combat capability of our armed forces at the necessary level -- that is, taking account of the threats to our security. But this is something which is forced on us. The arms race has always been forced on us from outside. It it depended on the Soviet Union alone, there would be no nuclear weapons on earth, no development of newer and newer variants of means of mass destruction, nothing would threaten the supreme human right, the right to life. The Soviet Union has done and is doing everything to prevent both a nuclear and a chemical disaster, and many international factors -- political, military and social -- indicate that it will prove possible to perform this noble task. Certainly the struggle to end the arms race, including the chemical form of it, to prevent nuclear and chemical war, is not an easy struggle, but common sense can and must prevail in it.

U.S. POLICIES DRAG NATO ALLIES TOWARD DISASTER

PM251557 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Mar 82 p 3

[N. Polyanov article: "Tormented Awakening" under the rubric "Inside and Outside NATO"]

[Text] Vienna -- The more time that passes, the more obvious it becomes to the West Europeans that Atlantic fetters are being them to a strategy which is not just being used in North American interests. When Washington talks of the "Russian danger" many West Europeans merely give a wry smile. But when the U.S. leaders begin to drag their nuclear missiles into their homes and exalt chemical and neutron weapons, the smiles disappear from the faces of the West German, the French, the British and the Italians. People are giving increasingly serious thought to the consequences of Washington's dangerous ventures, whose authors would essentially like to turn the Old World into the arena of a new military conflict.

Alarmed commentaries flared up with new force after the United States (the only one of 157 world countries!) came out against the recent UN appeal for the speediest resumption of Soviet-American talks on banning chemical weapons. The scales fell from people's eyes, as it were: If Washington is against a ban on chemical weapons that means it intends to use them! In effect this was confirmed by Pentagon officials. They produced in their speeches a sinister picture of the buildup of the latest chemical devices, which leave far behind the barbarous exercises of the U.S. interventionists in the forests of Indochina. They described new plants in Arkansas and elsewhere which are to produce so-called binary shells. They described the scale of the destructive chemical tornado which the current U.S. administration is preparing for Europe. Need it be said that Europe is reacting to such plans with growing indignation.

However, of course, this still does not mean that common sense is automatically gaining the upper hand among the European NATO partners and that they are refusing to fall in with the White House's plans. The process of political shifts between the two sides of the Atlantic is complex and to a large extent contradictory. The dialectic of its development is erratic. And if historically a divergence between Washington and the West European NATO capitals has been visible over the last 3 decades, at the same time a convergence can also be discerned, for we cannot ignore the class commonality of all the members of the Atlantic alliance: They stand on the same side of the barricade in their attitude to the revolutionary changes taking place in the world.

Despite some West European leaders' lack of understanding for the present White House incumbent's sinister leap from the eighties back to the fifties, they are in full agreement on joint NATO pressure on Warsaw, for example, or more exactly on the socialist half of Europe, of which Poland is a firm part. It was not for nothing that Secretary of State A. Haig, after the meeting of Atlantic foreign ministers in Brussels, said bluntly that he believes it a myth to think that the West "cannot do anything and has no right to do anything" with regard to Poland since the events in that country are of an "internal nature." No, the secretary of state thundered, the reverse is true: We must interfere in Poland's internal affairs, exert pressure on Warsaw and Moscow and throw ourselves boldly into the fray. For before us stands the class enemy of the West!

The junior partners, responding to their brother from Washington, once again showed that they have a very distinctive way of finding their bearings at this crossroads of international strategy. They gave tumultuous applause to their lofty guest from the other side of the Atlantic for his appeal to imperialist class unity. And A. Haig himself declared that he was "struck by the scale of agreement." This was the extent of the solemn accord of the Brussels Atlantic supper [vecherya] which was publicized in the United States as a great success for Washington.

But not a day went by before this same Washington began to hear certain "private comments" by West European politicans who convincingly showed that A. Haig's enthusiasm, though correct from the viewpoint of the NATOites' general anathema toward world communism, still needs substantial amendment in very important details. Thus Bonn publicly declared that accords with the Soviet Union, including the one on building a gas pipeline, still remain in force. French External Relations Minister Cheysson said that NATO has no right to use sanctions against other countries. Following this, France signed an agreement on participation in the deal to build a Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe.

It would, however, be an error to think that the awakening of the West's political circles to the dangerous nature of U.S. and indeed NATO strategy as a whole is, so to speak, automatic in the present troubled period. No, the events around Poland show precisely that Washington's partners are ready to be led by their boss rather than to show any independence of action.

At the same time another fact attracts attention namely, the growing rift between official and public circles in the West in assessing the Polish events. An increasing number of people are wondering what right in fact Washington and its NATO partners have to demand that Poland act not on its own judgment but in accordance with their conceptions of domestic and foreign policy.

It is easy to guess the reason for the U.S. secretary of state's rage when he was asked at a press conference why Washington applies "double standards" in appraising international events: The United States condemns martial law in Poland, which was introduced in full accordance with the country's Constitution, while it closes its eyes to the activity of the regimes in Turkey and Chile. What is more, Washington's assertiveness inside and outside NATO with regard to the Polish events has forced the world to comment increasingly vociferously on the violence of the U.S. gendarme, who is brandishing his stick over Libya and Nicaragua, Iran and Grenada, helping his British ally to deal with the people of Northern Ireland and protecting the slave-owning South African Government and the Israeli aggressors.

During the year President Reagan has been in the White House, Washington has decided to tighten the reins within the Atlantic alliance, continue and develop J. Carter's attacks on the socialist world, exploit the Polish events to reinforce discipline inside NATO and create a broad anti-Soviet front, whip up the arms race and ultimately start a second round of the cold war. However, the result has not been what Washington wanted.

Without even mentioning the fact that the Republican team has had to part with some of its display plumage (let us recall the scandalous story of the President's closest adviser, Allen, who fell prey to financial unscrupulousness), its standing within the North Atlantic alliance leaves a lot to be desired by the American leader. Alongside the centripetal forces being whipped up by Washington, centrifugal forces are making themselves felt in the bloc. The well-known diplomat and journalist Gunter Gaus believes that the changes within NATO can be explained primarily by "changes in thinking in Reagan's America." The image of the anticommunist "crusader" presented to the allies today is, in his opinion, not to the liking of the West European partners. "For this reason NATO is in a state of crisis now," he writes in the weekly DIE ZEIT, "from which it cannot emerge without changing." And he goes on: "In order to survive, Western Europe needs a stable Eastern Europe." For in reality "America is not prepared to resort to suicide for the sake of Hamburg or Amsterdam!" As a result, Gunter Gaus advises the leaders on both sides of the Atlantic to find ways which would enable them to obtain "equal rights to make decisions" that is, which would put an end to Washington's dictatorial role within NATO and would modernize the alliance in line with the realities of the contemporary world.

The thoughts expressed by Gaus are not sparklingly new. Doubts and even dissatisfaction in connection with the Americans' attempts to assert and toughen up the old forms of NATO emerged in the West quite a long time ago. And it is not the first year that attempts have been made to suppress this grumbling, or, to use the accepted expression in the upper echelons of NATO, "to settle the transatlantic dialogue," and moreover in the classic stick-and-carrot style.

A. Haig recently tried to involve the leadership of the Common Market in his efforts to this end and invited the Luxembourger Gaston Thorn, president of the European Community, and his colleagues to Washington. This is one of the Americans' "roundabout ways." There are also direct ways: For example, the accelerated inclusion of Spain in NATO. At the alliance's last session the formal decision on this was rubber-stamped under U.S. pressure. The parliaments of their West European partners are now expected to give the go-ahead to Spain's inclusion in the bloc by the middle of the summer.

Washington is also trying to gradually involve the West European allies in various international adventure -- in the Persian Gulf, in the eastern Mediterranean, in North Africa and the South Atlantic, in support of the South African racists. The plan is not complex: If and when a particular ally becomes involved in a distant foreign skirmish, it is more difficult for it to avoid participating in Washington's aggressive strategy on the central antisocialist salient.

The Atlanticists' imagination has free rein! They cannot understand that times have changed and are continuing to change, and not to their advantage. Even among politicians normally numbered among the "faithful," a tormented awakening is making itself felt with increasing frequency. And the disturbing question:" Where on earth are we going?" is heard with increasing frequency in the pages of the Western press.

The reply to this, alas, is known: Washington's policy inside and outside NATO is pushing the world to the brink of catastrophe. This is now being understood better and better by the peoples, who do not wish to remain indifferent to this dangerous playing with fire.

U.S., CANADA DEFY 'EUROROCKET' OPPONENTS

LD260822 Moscow TASS in English 0814 GMT 26 Mar 82

["A Challenge to the Peoples of Western Europe" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- The USA, having contemplated fitting the Canadian province of Alberta for a missile test range, is finally turning its northern neighbour into an accomplice in the realization of its criminal plans. This is how the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA comments on U.S. intention to test a cruise-missile guidance system in Canadian territory.

Ottawa together with Washington is defying millions of West Europeans who protest against the deployment of the U.S. "Eurorockets" in the Old World, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes.

The newspaper describes as demagoguery of the first water the arguments by Canadian Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne in defence of Canada's stand to the effect that the strengthening of NATO's nuclear forces in Europe would contribute to reaching agreement as soon as possible at the Soviet-U.S. negotiations in Geneva.

"It is impossible to solve the problems of disarmament by arming oneself," SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA stresses. This is evident to every soberminded person. Ottawa's step undoubtedly creates a negative background for the country's prestige in the light of the UN General Assembly's approaching second special session on disarmament.

The Canadian authorities, justifying their short-sighted and dangerous decision, tell everything but the truth, the newspaper observes. The truth is simple. The Americans, from their old gangster habit, took the neighbouring government by the throat. "Cash on the barrelhead or a test range!" -- thus approximately sounds the condition advanced by Washington which has made use of the fact that Canada has run into indebtedness for F-18 Hornet fighter planes purchased from the USA, indebtedness which it does not manage to pay off.

But the Canadians, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes in conclusion, do not wish to see their native land as a hobbled mustang. In the country there is growing opposition to the government's decision. "Canada must become a zone free from nuclear weapons, and not a zone for testing them!" -- this demand is today voiced across the land from the Atlantic to Pacific coast of the country.

U.S. POLLS REVEAL LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN REAGAN

LD251816 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Logical Trend" -- TASS headline; by TASS political observer Igor Orlov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- Polls recently held by the biggest United States institutes for studying public opinion and also leading newspapers and television companies confirm the steady trend in the loss of confidence of the Americans in the head of the present Washington administration. It is significant that the markedly growing negative assessment of President Reagan's activity extends both to domestic and external policy of the administration.

Thus, for instance, the Harris service registered an all-time record decline in the confidence of Americans in the President of their country. 58 percent of those polled voiced a negative appraisal of his activity and this is six percent more than but two months ago.

Hardly anyone who closely watches inner-political life in the United States has been surprised by the fact that 63 percent of those polled negatively assessed the socio-economic policy of the administration, while two-thirds categorically opposed the administration's plans for a further cut in social services. For millions of American families have learnt from their own experience who detrimental are the consequence of such a course, ruthlessly hitting their vital interests.

Even more Americans realize that the radical curtailment of domestic social programs is most directly connected with the aggressive adventuristic foreign policy of Washington, rejecting peace initiatives designed to curb the arms race, especially the nuclear missile race, and prefering to inflate military spending to please those who are pressing for dangerous brinkmanship.

It is therefore not surprising that, according to the same Harris service poll, the number of Americans criticizing the foreign policy of the President has gone up by eight percent in one month alone and now equals 59 percent.

Even more convincing look the data on the results of various public opinion polls on key issues of disarmament. The overwhelming majority of those polled (this is reported by the Los Angeles TIMES) strongly advocated a total "freeze" in the futher manufacture, tests and deployment of nuclear weapons and denounced the unprecedented increase in military expenditures.

83.4 percent of the Americans are in favour of the immediate conclusion of a treaty between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic nuclear arms. The NBC television company reports that a powerful anti-war movement has now developed literally throughout the entire country from New England to California, and is becoming the biggest peoples action since the Vietnam war.

The results of public opinion polls are a logical trend reflecting the mounting indignation of the population of the country over a policy running counter to the vital interests of the people and fraught with serious consequences for the cause of peace.

SENATE HEARINGS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA CRITICIZED

LD232050 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1610 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 23 Mar (TASS) -- With the aim of whitewashing the Pretoria regime's racist policy, and to escape responsibility for the explosive situation in the south of Africa, the Reagan administration has organized provocative hearings in the Senate subcommittee on security and terrorism.

At a session of the subcommittee, Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, baselessly tried to accuse the national liberation movements and those who support them of whipping up an atmosphere of "chaos, violence and disorder." Without saying a word in this connection about "the United States of America's allies and friends," the South African racists, he resorted to crude attacks on the Soviet Union.

Crocker in effect admitted that the United States of America and other Western powers are trying to bring the southern African region, rich in strategic raw materials, under their control. In particular, he unceremoniously proclaimed all of southern Africa to be yet another "vitally important region" for the United States and the other countries of the West. A speech by the subcommittee chairman, Senator Jeremiah Denton, was also full of hatred for the national liberation movement of the peoples of Africa struggling against racism and racial discrimination. This obscurantist from Alabama, known for his racist views, declared that the South-West African Peoples Organization and the African National Congress, which are internationally recognized as the representatives of the peoples of Namibia and the RSA, "have fallen under the control of international communism."

It is clear from Denton's statement that the U.S. State Department is the initiator of the hearings in the Senate subcommittee. Thus, in the opinion of observers, the Reagan administration deliberately arranged the holding of this provocative event to coincide with the week of solidarity with peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination now being marked throughout the world. Its real aim is to use lies and slander to besmirch and weaken the struggle against racism in the south of Africa and in the United States of America itself.

CHINA

SOVIET COACH VIEWS CONTACTS WITH PRC GYMNASTS

OW252146 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Listeners, the traditional Moscow News Cup international gymnasts meet will open on 26 March in Moscow. Athletes from more than 40 countries, including China, have been invited to take part in the contest. The following is a report on this event by our reporter:

This spring meet marks the beginning of the new season in international gymnastics. It has, of course, aroused intense interest among sportsmen, athletes and athletic enthusiasts in Moscow. Since athletes from so many countries are taking part, it will be a most representative international gymnastics meet. Among the athletes attending this meet will be those from Japan, the United States and Democratic Germany -- countries which have always been in the forefront of gymnastics.

The fact that Chinese athletes will take part in this Moscow event has evoked much interest. Chinese athletes were warmly welcomed by the spectators at last fall's World Cup championships in Moscow. (Arkhayev), a first-class Soviet gymnastics coach, gave a statement before the opening of the Moscow News Cup meet. Referring to China's sportsmanship, he said: China's sportsmanship has become well-known throughout the world. I first became acquainted with Chinese gymnasts at the 1979 world gymnastics championships in the United States. History has clearly indicated that Chinese athletes will prove strong opponents in world gymnastics competition in the near future. This certainly will be the case. At the Moscow championships in the fall of 1981, the Chinese athletes won extensive praise from both Soviet and foreign experts and from the spectators in Moscow. As for their achievements in the Moscow championships, the Chinese athletes won two gold medals, four silver medals and two bronze medals. Now Chinese gymnasts (Ma Yanhong), Li Yuejiu, (Li Xiaoping) and (Huang Yubin) have already become second to none in world gymnastics. Participation in the Moscow championships was the greatest achievement the Chinese athletes have every made with regard to international contests.

(Arkhayev), the first-class coach of the Soviet mixed gymnastics team, went on to say: We think of the participation of the young Chinese athletes in this event in Moscow will be a test for them and a good opportunity for them to prepare for winning good scores in next season's contests and to learn from the experience of world-renowned gymnasts. During the period of the Moscow News Cup, the Soviet gymnastics associated will hold a seminar for coaches from the participating countries. Here I wish to point out that since the Moscow world championships, the Chinese athletes have joined their Soviet counterparts in training on several occasions. The Chinese team leader and coach have stated that the Chinese athletes are quite satisfied with their visits to the Soviet Union. My conversations with them have led me to arrive at this conclusion: The Soviet and Chinese gymnasts should continue to increase their contacts in the athletic field. Since athletics serves the purpose of peace and cooperation, constant contacts between Soviet and Chinese athletes are bound to help improve relations between the two countries.

BREZHNEV REAFFIRMS SOVIET STANCE ON TAIWAN

OW252358 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, delivered a speech on 24 March at the grand meeting in Tashkent to award the Order of Lenin to the Uzbek SSR. Referring to the question of Soviet-Chinese relations, he emphasized the principled position of the CPSU and the Soviet Union -- the position clearly set forth in the decisions of the 25th and 26th CPSU Congresses. Comrade Brezhnev recalled that despite the fact that the Soviet Union has criticized many aspects of the Chinese leadership's policy as being at variance with socialist principles, it has never interfered in China's internal affairs and has unwaveringly stood for the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

In addition, Comrade Brezhnev elaborated the Soviet Union's principled position with regard to the Taiwan issue. He emphatically pointed out: We have never supported and we do not now support in any form the so-called concept of two Chinas and have consistently and fully recognized China's sovereignty over Taiwan.

Our station observer Glebov comments as follows on this statement made by the Soviet leader:

Listeners, let us recall something in history. In November 1949 the PRC foreign minister stressed in an official letter to the UN secretary general: The central people's government of China has basically liberated the whole country and received wide support from the people. As a matter of fact, the Chiang Kai-shek government has collapsed and is disqualified legally and in reality to represent China. Because of this, the PRC Government declares that it does not recognize the Chiang gang as China's representative at the United Nations.

This diplomatic action taken by the PRC immediately received the most resolute support from the Soviet Union. On 25 November 1949 the Soviet delegate made a speech at the UN Political Committee declaring nonrecognition of the plenary-power qualifications of the Kuomintang delegation and requesting that the PRC delegation be invited to attend the UN General Assembly. The Soviet delegation leader stressed: From now on we only recognize the PRC delegate.

Later, in January 1950, the Soviet Union made a proposal at the UN Security Council urging that the Kuomintang elements, who had no right to represent China, be expelled from Security Council meetings. However, the disruption made by the delegates of the United States and some other imperialist countries obstructed the adoption of the Soviet proposal. The U.S. imperialists then boycotted in every way the activities carried out by the friends of People's China in an effort to restore the legitimate Chinese rights at the United Nations. This state of affairs continued for more than 20 years.

It should be pointed out that during the first few years after the founding of the PRC, the imperialist bloc began to go all out to peddle the two-Chinas concept. The advocates of this concept did not conceal their scheme -- that is, to divorce Taiwan from China and to retain the Taiwan authorities' seat in the United Nations. They also indicated that under such circumstances the United States would not oppose the restoration of the PRC's rights in the United Nations. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries opposed most resolutely this two-Chinas concept and held that it was absolutely correct for China to point out that this concept was a shameless anti-China plot of the imperialists. Our country has held and still holds that there is only one China -- the PRC -- and that Taiwan is one of its provinces.

In this respect, it is also worth emphasizing that such a principled position of the Soviet Union has never been affected by situation changes. The Soviet Union has always adhered to this position since the founding of the People's Republic of China, even during the period of worsening Soviet-Chinese relations, for which the Soviet Union is not to blame. For example, when the China representation issue was discussed at the United Nations in 1971, the Soviet delegates resolutely defended the legal rights of the People's Republic of China just as they did in 1950. For the same reason, the Soviet Union today unequivocally denounces the Reagan administration for pursuing the two-Chinas policy. Our position remains the same as it was more than 30 years ago -- Taiwan is an unalienable part of China. Therefore, U.S. imperialists are violating China's sovereignty if they give aid to the Kuomintang regime.

MOSCOW RECALLS SOVIET AID TO CHINESE REVOLUTION

OW251335 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Musin commentary: "The Chinese Revolution from 1925 to 1927" -- seventh part of series: "Fragments in the History of Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Text] The Chinese revolution from 1925 to 1927 was launched under the influence of the Soviet Union's Great October Revolution. From the very beginning, the Chinese revolution was strongly opposed by the imperialists and Chinese reactionaries.

They used large numbers of soldiers to suppress the Chinese laboring people's action. Under these circumstances, outside help, especially the fraternal assistance from the Soviet Union in the spirit of internationalism, was very important for the Chinese revolutionaries. Our country helped the Chinese revolutionaries politically, morally and materially.

The workers' movement in 1925 elicited a response in the Soviet Union. Soviet working people donated money to aid the families of those workers who were killed or wounded in Shanghai and Qingdao. Many Soviet employees and workers donated a whole day's wage, and the Soviet trade unions gave important material support to the Chinese working class. The All-China Trade Union Council sent a message to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions expressing its gratitude to the Soviet workers for their assistance to the Chinese workers. The message said: Nothing is more valuable than the fraternal moral and material assistance given to us by the proletariat, especially by the Russian workers, in our arduous struggle against world imperialism. The assistance has encouraged us and given us strength.

The Soviet Union also helped the Chinese revolutionary forces militarily. From 1925 to 1927 our country provided a series of loans to the southern government in China. In May 1925 alone, our country presented 9,000 rifles, 9.5 million rounds of ammunition, 100 machineguns with ammunition belts and 10,000 handgrenades to the revolutionary government. At the request of the southern government in China, Soviet military experts worked in China at that time. They actively took part in making plans for the national revolutionary army in its northern expedition against the troops of the warlords. Soviet pilots vigorously helped the advancing revolutionary army. They made reconnaissance flights and bombed the enemy's strongholds and troop assembly areas. The fighters of the national revolutionary army and the Chinese working people loved and were grateful to their Soviet comrades.

The northern expedition greatly promoted the Chinese revolutionary movement. The Soviet working people exulted over the victories won by the Chinese national revolutionary army. The news of Shanghai's capture by the working class on 21 March 1927 greatly cheered us. The Soviet working people resolutely opposed the foreign imperialists' armed intervention in China's affairs. The CPSU encouraged and helped organize the Chinese people. It helped the young CCP in theory and in practice.

In the 1920's CPSU documents on the Chinese revolutionary struggle described the Chinese revolution's motive force, characteristics and basic tasks. These documents also contained the conclusion that the Chinese bourgeois democratic revolution would certainly turn into a socialist revolution and described the significance of a united front. These documents and their conclusions were extremely valuable to the CCP in drawing up its strategy and plans for the Chinese revolution. Internationalist Chinese communists have often stressed the importance of the Soviet Union's assistance in the spirit of internationalism to the development and victory of the Chinese revolution.

BEIJING IGNORES INDIA'S PROTEST OF OVERFLIGHTS

LD191112 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 19 Mar, TASS -- A Chinese plane invaded Indian air space in the area of Ladakh (in the east of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir). The UNI news agency reports that the plane in question flew over the Chushul Valley at a high altitude and then disappeared in the direction of western Tibet. The Indian Government lodged earlier a protest with China against repeated incursion by Chinese planes in Indian air space. But Beijing ignored India's legitimate indignation and refused categorically to give any guarantees that such "incidents" will never recur over strategically important areas of India.

WEINBERGER BEGINS DEFENSE CONSULTATIONS IN JAPAN

LD261030 Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 26 Mar 82

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Logachev]

[Text] Tokyo, 26 Mar, TASS -- U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger began his talks with officials of the Japanese National Defence Agency with the propaganda of the U.S. administrations's arms race. The Pentagon's chief, now touring a number of Asian countries, arrived in Tokyo yesterday for consultations with the Japanese Government on matters of defence.

At his meeting today with S. Ito, chief of the National Defence Agency of Japan, Weinberger asserted that talks with the Soviet Union on arms reductions can be conducted only from positions of strength. He did not conceal the West's intentions to secure from the USSR unilateral concessions on matters of disarmament by building up military strength.

The American emissary, seeking to draw Japan deeper into this global anti-Soviet strategy of Washington, demanded that Tokyo continue efforts to increase the combat potential of the Japanese Armed Forces. He repeated this demand at a press conference held here later. He said that Japan must increase considerably its military spending if it is to discharge its defence mission.

Commenting on Weinberger's pronouncements, KYODO TSUSHIN calls attention to the fact that he presented Washington's demands to Japan immediately after the Colorado Springs meeting of the NATO planning group. New dangerous calls for strengthening the West's "defences" were again made at this meeting. So there is a new attempt by the American administration to draw Japan into the militaristic preparations of the USA and its allies.

The calls of the American "war hawk" were met with full understanding by the leading officials of the National Defence Agency of Japan. S. Ito said that despite Japan's financial difficulties he would do everything possible for meeting Washington's "wishes."

TASS Observer

LD252014 Moscow TASS in English 1843 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Security Measures Are a Factor of Peace" -- TASS headline; by TASS observer Leonid Ponomarev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- U.S. Defence Secretary Weinberger has left for Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, determined to insistently demand from these countries that they increase their military spending still more and step up measures to enlarge the "defence perimeter" -- that of Japan in the first place. He is also due to visit American military bases there.

Parallel to the Washington administration's effort to press its West European allies into steady arms build-up, similar pressure is being exerted on the United States' partners in Asia. They are also urged to boost their military budgets, to buy more American weapons and to take a more active part in the global American military strategy of preparations for war virtually in all areas of the world.

Weinberger has recently said in one of his congressional reports that the U.S. strategic goal was now to be able to wage not one or "one and half" wars, as defined by the Pentagon until recently, but a "global" war embracing practically all regions.

Similar doctrines and Washington's mounting military activity inevitably lead to higher tensions, to an atmosphere of mistrust, to frustration of normal inter-state relations and to confrontation. They push countries toward the costly arms race. The Soviet Union is consistently committed to the policy of peaceful coexistence and a lower level of war danger in the world. It therefore suggests an entirely different course. All its foreign policy moves and initiatives are aimed at creating an atmosphere of trust not only among individual countries, but also on the regional scale.

The Warsaw Treaty countries, for example, have proposed to the NATO countries a package of thoroughly worked-out confidence-building measures which, if adopted, would greatly contribute to the lessening of tension in Europe. The Soviet Union pursues the same policy in other regions. The peace programme approved by the 26th CPSU Congress includes, among other things, the Soviet Union's readiness for concrete talks with all interested countries on confidence-building measures in the Far East. Such measures would be sure to both remove strains in the region and to help consolidate the basis of universal peace.

In doing so the Soviet Union is not going to oppose some countries to others or to infringe anyone's security interests. The Soviet policy is based on the invariable principle of the equality and undiminished security of all sides. The USSR takes exactly this kind of approach when it suggests a discussion of spreading confidence-building measures also to seas and oceans, particularly those in the area of the busiest shipping routes. In principle, the Soviet Union favours turning as much of the world ocean as possible into a zone of peace in the nearest future.

Speaking in Tashkent on Wednesday, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev stressed that the Soviet Union's proposal for confidence-building measures in the Far East did not necessarily mean that all the countries of the region should get together at once. Advance along this path could be well made on a bilateral basis, for example by the USSR and Japan.

The policy of the USSR in Asia as elsewhere in the world is aimed at consolidating peace and peaceful cooperation with all those who want it. The USSR sees the widening of confidence-building measures as a major factor to strengthen the security of all nations.

BREZHNEV REAFFIRMS SOVIET GOOD WILL TOWARD JAPAN

OW260441 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Yuriy Afonin commentary]

[Text] Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, in his 24 March Tashkent address expressed the Soviet desire for reliable relations of good neighborliness, reciprocal cooperation and mutual confidence with Japan. He thus again demonstrated good will toward Japan.

The Brezhnev address was an expression of fundamantal principles on which the Soviet Union wants to base its relations with Japan. The Soviet leader made clear the Soviet intention of developing good neighborliness with Japan and cooperation with the broadest possible Japanese strata under the principle of reciprocity. He urged Japan to carefully reexamine the Soviet proposal of a year ago for talks on confidence-building measures acceptable to both sides, adding that the Soviet proposal concerning confidence-building measures for the Far East does not necessarily presuppose a collective gathering at once of all countries of that region, and that progress along that line could well be started on a bilateral basis -- for example, between the USSR and Japan.

The Soviet Union thus proposed that the USSR and Japan jointly take an initiative and be pioneers in working out and enforcing confidence-building measures in the Far East. This proposal conforms completely to the interests of good neighborliness between the USSR and Japan and meets the requirement of peace and security in the Far East.

If the USSR and Japan cooperate in the establishment and enforcement of confidence-building measures, it will completely erase from the minds of the Japanese the hackneyed myth of a Soviet threat cooked up abroad and importunately dished out to them. At the same time, some figures in Japan will no longer have any pretext to talk to their people and the world about the so-called apprehensions allegedly caused by this or that action of the USSR. This will bring about a marked improvement in Soviet-Japan relations and deepen mutual understanding between the two nations.

Developing good neighborliness between the USSR and Japan is important indeed, but by no means a simple task. Many obstacles raised by outside forces with no respect at all for the interests of the Soviet and Japanese peoples stand in the way. Those forces are attempting to keep the USSR and Japan from establishing friendly ties between them, and to involve the Japanese in the vortex of anti-Soviet policies.

As Mr Brezhnev stated in Tashkent, as a result of intrigues by those forces the existing reciprocal economic cooperation between the USSR and Japan is far from being as broad as it could be. As for mutual confidence, there is regrettably even less of that between the two nations. The Soviet proposal concerning confidence-building measures seeks a remedy to this situation. It will not and cannot hurt any interest of Japan or a third country.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union also made the confidence-building proposal to other countries in the Far East. Leonid Brezhnev said in the Tashkent address that the USSR is ready to hold talks with China on possible measures to build mutual confidence along Sino-Soviet borders.

Recent remarks by Soviet leaders repeatedly referred to various problems in Soviet-Japanese relations. Beside the Tashkent address by Leonid Brezhnev, they include the Soviet leader's reply to an appeal from Japanese writers against nuclear war; answers by Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to questions by a team of ASAHI SHIMBUN reporters during its visit to the Soviet Union, and conversations between Tikhonov and outgoing Japanese ambassador Uomoto. Running through all their remarks is a sincere desire for placing Soviet-Japan relations on the track of good neighborliness, reciprocal cooperation and mutual confidence. Needless to say, the Soviet Union expects an equally sincere approach by Japan, and such an approach by Japan will undoubtedly find an affirmative response in the USSR.

Tikhonov Receives Envoy

LD181752 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 18 Mar, TASS -- Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, received in the Kremlin Tokichiro Uomoto, ambassador of Japan to the USSR, in connection with his forthcoming departure for home.

In the course of the talk that took place questions of mutual interest were discussed.

Nikolay Firyubin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, took part in the talk.

U.S. 'SHOWING OFF' STRENGTH IN 'TEAM SPIRIT 82'

SK260932 Moscow in Korean to Korean 1130 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The United States and its allies have been showing off their strength in the Far East and the Central Pacific. For over a month and a half, a 100,000-strong force of the South Korean Army and a 60,000-strong U.S. force have been participating in the joint military exercise Team Spirit '82 on the Korean Peninsula. These exercises are being accompanied by provocative acts. For example, a South Korean patrol fired at the DPRK side several times last Wednesday.

GOVOROV HEADS DELEGATION TO MPR ARMY JUBILEE

PM251001 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by Army General V.L. Govorov arrived in Ulaanbaatar on 16 March at the invitation of Col Gen J. Abhia, Mongolian defense minister. The delegation will take part in celebrations on the 61st anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army.

BREZHNEV CONGRATULATES BANGLADESH'S ERSHAD

BK260850 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0838 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union has sent congratulations to the chief martial law administrator on the independence day. In his message the Soviet president said relations of friendship and cooperation established between the two countries will be further developed to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

TASS CITES UNI ON SITUATION IN BANGLADESH

LD261316 Moscow TASS in English 1306 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Mar, TASS -- As the Indian news agency UNI reported today, Lieutenant General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, the head of the martial administration of Bangladesh, has appointed three advisers who will assist him in the administration of his country. The advisers are two deputies of the chief martial law administration -- Admiral M.A. Khan, chief of staff of the navy, and vice marshal Sultan Mahmoud, chief of staff of the air force, as well as K.A. Bakr, the attorney general of Bangladesh. Another several advisers are expected to be appointed in the coming days.

According to a PTI report, arrests of representatives of political parties, of the Bangladesh Awami League and the National Socialist Party (JSD), in particular, were made in the country.

MOSCOW PAPER ON ALLEGED USE OF TOXINS IN DRA

PM260809 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 82 p 3

[Correspondent V. Snegirev dispatch under the rubric "Exposes": "'Khimichat' [newly-coined term based on Russian word for chemical]: Who Needed To Brazenly Ascribe to the Soviet Union the Use of Toxins in Afghanistan, and Why?"]

[Text] Kabul, March -- Her name is (Latifa). The girl is in her last year at Kabul's (Ariana) high school and dreams of continuing her studies at university. Rather, she used to dream of it. Some time ago (Latifa) began to be beset by increasingly frequent doubts. Will she manage the university course? The high school girl is haunted by weakness, nightmares, pains near the heart and clearly diminished memory. Her studies have deteriorated, and she frequently sees doctors.

This began the summer before last. (Latifa) was one of hundreds of other schoolchildren and high school children perfidiously poisoned by an unknown chemical. She was taken to the clinic gravely ill -- the girl could not move and had lost consciousness. Doctors seriously feared for her life. Other victims felt no better. They complained of acute headaches, bouts of fear and disorientation. Many, like (Latifa), were taken to the clinic on stretchers. The wards were overflowing, and patients had to be accommodated in corridors, on landings and even in the hospital garden.

By a "strange" coincidence, shortly before this inhuman chemical attack counterrevolutionary leaflets had been distributed in Kabul urging schoolchildren to riot, to participate in antigovernment demonstrations and to disobey teachers. "Severe penalties will be used against those who do not fulfill these demands" -- this was the unambiguous threat at the end of the leaflet signed by Gulbuddin's "Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan." As you see, in this instance the dushmans kept their word by making an attempt on the lives of hundreds of children.

The consequences of that barbarous action are still being felt by many young victims, including the (Ariana) high school student (Latifa). We were told of her case by Afghan doctors who for more than 18 months now have been noting serious disruptions in the health of former patients. Phlegmatic medical documents record afflications of the nervous and cardiovascular systems and of respiratory organs. The doctors told us that some patients spent more than 2 months as inpatients. Incidentally, the medics said, it is hard to establish now the possible complications for their health. An unknown toxin was used on the schoolchildren. Disease could still show up in very unexpected forms.

The mass poisoning of Kabul schoolchildren aroused angry indignation in the world public at the time. There was direct evidence of the fact, as the saying goes. It is impossible to conceal the evidence of a monstrous crime whose motives are far simpler than the formula of nerve gas: to intimidate people and win them over to the counterrevolution by any means (including the physical liquidation of recalcitrants). But, fleeing retribution, every criminal seeks to cover his traces and confound justice. In this case scandal was rumored for this purpose, alleging that "the Russians use temporarily incapacitating gases and, according to some reports, lethal toxins in rural Afghanistan" (from a statement by former U.S. Defense Secretary Brown).

But when the Americans themselves drove the falsifiers into a corner, demanding concrete proof instead of scandal, Clark, a high-ranking CIA official, mumbled something incomprehensible: "I see nothing bad in the fact that these rumors are allowed to be spread." And the dushmans, directed by American instructors, continued surreptitiously to torment their compatriots with chemical poisons.

"The DRA possesses much documentary evidence exposing the use of chemical weapons marked 'made in USA' against our country's citizens," Afghan Interior Minister S.A. Golabzoy declared recently.

What evidence is there, then? Let us turn to facts whose authenticity no one across the ocean attempted to deny when they were published, with -- diffidently -- not a word being uttered in reply....

On 25 March 1980 an Afghan Armed Forces patrol seized by force a bus heading toward Herat. In addition to conventional small arms, chemical grenades of American manufacture were taken from the captured terrorists. It did not take long to guess their purpose. Exactly 1 month later similar grenades were used by budmashes in Herat against people's militiamen. Soon barbarous weapons of this sort were discovered in bandit equipment dumps uncovered not far from the Pakistani border.

At a press conference in Kabul in the summer of 1980 journalists were shown chemical bombs marked "(TSDS)-157, made in USA," which had been captured from dushmans. Somewhat later a retreating counterrevolutionary gang in the Ghazni region abandoned containers with chemicals marked "M-112, Danger -- Poison!"

Summing up these facts, the American magazine COUNTERSPY drew the conclusion that they could "put the U.S. administration in a very awkward position."

But there is no limit to effrontery. The White House not only demonstratively kept quiet but also encouraged the dushmans to "pile on the poison" still more vigorously. I will cite here a tale which I noted down, as told by Lieutenant Colonel (Bashir), commander of the 29th Revolutionary Defense Battalion, whose fighters were ordered to help establish people's power in the (Dzhigatu) district of Ghazni Province.

"The inhabitants of those places had clearly suffered a lot at the hands of the budmashes When we entered the district we were greeted as very welcome guests. The children waved little red flags, and the peasants treated the soldiers to their simple food. Evading combat, (Said Dzhagran's) gang had retreated to the mountains. But 2 days later these aggressors and murderers made their presence felt by inflicting (dzhigatu) strong fire from heavy machineguns and mortars.

"One mortar shell exploded not far from me, and I caught the nauseating stench of gas. I quickly covered my face with a wet kerchief and ran from cover into a windswept square. There were several more explosions, and on different sides soldiers could be heard shouting, 'gas!' Fortunately, we quickly managed to neutralize the enemy emplacements. The ammunition packed with a pink chemical was sent to Kabul, where experts easily determined its transatlantic origin."

Quite recently cartridges packed with a potent toxin were captured from terrorists in the region of Kabul Polytechnic Institute. An American instructor who trained dushmans in the finer points of handling chemical weapons has been exposed in Peshawar -- counter-revolution's lair on Pakistani territory. The DRA Government has repeatedly proposed setting up an authoritative international commission -- including the participation of U.S. representatives -- to investigate these facts. But, by all accounts, precisely this variant does not suit the Afghan rebels' patrons. The American stamp on captured ammunition is too glaringly obvious. It will not wash off....

On the other hand, "enthusiasts" have been found who have undertaken to investigate alleged instances of the use of toxins by the Soviet Union. The conclusions they draw are simple: "There is no data confirming this," Senator David Pryor writes in the Washington POST. "Our own CIA has not discovered any evidence...." (Zh.M. Mono), the International Red Cross committee's representative in Peshawar, was still more definite, calling the rumors spread by the Americans "irresponsible gossip." Nor has any proof been found by correspondents of a number of Western newspapers who have visited Pakistan and whose enterprise and skill in seeking out even what does not exist certainly cannot be denied.

On the other side of the ocean, however, they evidently have not given a thought to abandoning the CIA-originated chemical lie. U.S. Secretary of State Haig has spoken out once again, and State Department spokesmen have readily taken up allegations about the Soviet Union's use of toxins in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan.

"Our subunits in the DRA have never used chemical weapons and have not had them at their disposal either now or in the past," the chief of the staff of the limited contingent of Soviet troops declared in an interview for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. "Haig's provocative statements are absurd, false and extremely silly. In this connection I would like to remark that they obviously play the part of a smokescreen under cover of which the Americans intend extensively to use the 'chemical stick' both against Afghanistan's patriots and in other regions of the globe. The U.S. administration has had repeated recourse to such tricks, wishing to justify before mankind either its own crimes already committed or preparations for them."

It has been proved very clearly that Washington's false allegations are designed to play a dual role. On the one hand, they are to whitewash crimes and CIA-directed rebels and, on the other, to camouflage the Pentagon's extensive preparations for chemical warfare on a global scale.

According to foreign press data, $705 million has been allocated to the American military this year alone for the production of new types of lethal weapons. And $2.47 billion is being appropriated to implement the 5-year chemical rearmament program drawn up in Washington. The stocks of American chemical weapons today amount to hundreds of thousands of tons, and the Pentagon's appetite is growing all the time....

As for the USSR's stand, it is immutable: A consistent struggle for the limitation and total prohibition of all types of arms, including chemical ones, and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs.

We will not allow the world to be either blown up or poisoned!

DRA ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN MUSLIMS REVIEWED

LD261210 Moscow TASS in English 0950 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Report by TASS correspondent Yuriy Tyssovski]

[Text] Kabul, 26 Mar, TASS -- Work is underway in different parts of Afghanistan to repair 59 old mosques and build 18 new ones.

The Afghan press reports almost daily that the restoration of some ancient architectural monument has begun or that this (?for) that place of religious worship destroyed by counter-revolutionary gangs has been restored.

The aspirations and interests of the country's Moslems have found their reflection in the basic principles of the DRA, the provisional constitution of the country. Article five of the fundamental law guarantees profound respect for Islamic values, and religious liberty of all nationalities, ethnic and religious groups. The document provides for the protection and preservation of places of religious worship, ancient architectural buildings of certain value to Moslems.

Such are the facts. And still Western propaganda as well as press and radio controlled by reactionary regimes in some Moslem countries, first of all in Pakistan, continue to spread all kinds of false stories and inventions about some "persecution" of Moslems and alleged lack of respect for Islam on the part of revolutionary power.

Addressing the recent national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke with profound respect and appreciation about Afghan believers, about their role in the effort to build a better future for the Afghan people. The government and the PDPA show everyday concern for the interests of believers. This is evidenced by the fact that substantial material assistance is rendered to Moslem clergymen. The state also pays for the repairs and restoration of mosques. 15 million Afghani have been earmarked for this purpose in the country's budget. In Kabul alone 1.5 million Afghani have been spent on the restoration and heating of mosques, while another 700,000 Afghani were distributed among needy clergymen in the form of material aid. The rest of the funds earmarked for this purpose have been sent to different provinces of the country.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and the revolutionary government have made available to the country's Moslems and to the whole of the people what was systematically denied them by former rulers. Conditions have been created in the country for eliminating backwardness, diseases and poverty in a historically short period of time. Government-sponsored projects are being carried out in various provinces of the country in the interests of the mass of working Moslems. These projects provide for a further improvement in the living standards of the people, the implementation of progressive social and economic reforms. Afghan Moslems are taking an active part in the effort to safeguard the revolutionary gains. They are determined to repulse the enemies of people's power who, guided of "defenders of Islam", murder Moslems, destroy their houses, schools and hospitals.

WORKERS, INTELLECTUALS BACK AFGHAN REVOLUTION

PM251553 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 5

[Correspondent L. Mironov report: "Nowruz -- Festival of Spring and Hope"]

[Text] Kabul, March -- Nowruz -- New Year -- is among the most cheerful, joyous festivals for the Afghans. According to the calendar in widespread use in Afghanistan, it falls on 21 March and is traditionally regarded as the first day of spring and the start of agricultural work.

"As you greet the spring festival, so the whole year will be," the popular saying has it. Naturally, everyone strives to prepare for it as well as possible. There is spring cleaning in the houses, the streets and yards are swept and new clothes for all members of the family and gifts for relatives, kinsmen and friends are purchased beforehand.

Nowruz is also the start of the academic year in Afghan schools and higher educational institutions. The people's power is adopting energetic measures to ensure that all Afghan children go to school. A law on universal primary education has been adopted. In less than 4 years since the April revolution more than 200 new schools have been constructed, and higher education is also being extended. This year alone 10,000 young men and women entered the first grade at Kabul University and Polytechnic Institute.

Successes in the sphere of the education and training of the young generation could be much greater, Afghan leaders belive, were it not for the intrigues of counterrevolutionary elements, which are continuing with help from outside. The newspaper HEWAD recalls last year's mass poisoning of students at the (Soreyya) and (Zarguna) schools and the university with toxic chemicals.

On 18 March the DRA Foreign Ministry presented to Afghan and foreign journalists at a press conference six dushmans who were seized by the DRA security organs after being sent in from Pakistan to carry out subversive and terrorist acts on 21 March, the so-called "day of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan," proclaimed in the West at the initiative of U.S. President Reagan. American, Chinese and Pakistani weapons, toxic substances for contaminating water sources in cities and villages, stacks of subversive pamphlets -- these are the "gifts" brought by the bandits to their native land for the Afghan people in the new year, on instructions from Western special services.

Their admission that they underwent training in a special center in Pakistan with American, Chinese and other foreign instructors and that intelligence services supplied them generously with money and weapons is further evidence of imperialism's crude interference in the internal affairs of independent Afghanistan and of the hypocrisy of those Western circles which seek, together with the Afghan counterrevolutionary rabble, to don the cloak of "defenders of Islam" in Afghanistan. Your correspondent was told by 'A. M. Sarboland, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of information and culture.

Attempts by the American imperialists and their NATO allies to spoil the New Year festival for our people are simply pitiful and laughable, the minister went on. Our people have long known who their friends are and who their enemies are. For our country there is no need to explain twice that the American President and his henchmen are demonstrating their "solidarity" not with our people, who have firmly chosen the path of building a new, just society without exploiters, but with the Afghan counterrevolution.

People are currently discussing the results of the first nationwide PDPA conference, which ended a week ago. In effect, for the first time in the party's history its best representatives from all over the country were able to meet to examine the urgent problems of the day, on whose correct resolution the course of the revolutionary process in the country depends.

An impressive march and rally of over 100,000 working people was held on the initiative of the Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth. The workers, employees and members of the intelligentsia who spoke discussed in a committed way the main documents approved by the party forum. They spoke of the concrete measures outlined by the party for improving living standards and providing the working people with jobs, housing and medical services.

All the speeches were permeated by the idea of the need to resolutely rebuff the enemies of the people's power who are trying to break the revolutionary spirit of the people marching behind the party.

The revolution in Afghanistan, Aziz, a teacher at the medical faculty, stated at a rally at the university, is victorious because all the country's honest patriots are behind it. We are deeply grateful to the Soviet Union and all progressive mankind for their international support.

The PDPA and the revolutionary authorities, (Shafika), a student at the university's engineering faculty, said, are striving to give the people the most essential things, which they were denied by the rulers of the past. All patriots must participate actively in the struggle against the counterrevolution and in building a new life. Our people are strong because of their support for the party, and the party is strong because of its strengthening ties with the people. That is why we will conquer!

The new year, 1361 (by local reckoning), has arrived in Afghanistan. Afghan working people are embarking on the implementation of the PDPA action program, which defines realistic ways of building a new society in the country.

PAPER VIEWS DRA PROGRESS, DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION

PM260925 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Mar 82 p 3

[Lt. Col Yu. Gavrilov article: "The Revolution Is Invincible"]

[Text] Afghan working people are greeting the forthcoming days with a feeling of special elation -- a national conference of the PDPA -- the genuine voice of the aspirations of the broad masses of working people in the country -- is being held in the DRA. The conference delegates are to review the path traveled by the April Revolution and outline plans for further socioeconomic transformations in the interests of the people.

In the period since the victory of the revolution, important steps to develop the national economy, increase industrial and agricultural production and raise the working people's living standard have been taken in the country under PDPA leadership. Major political events have taken place. The National Fatherland Front, uniting all the country's patriotic forces, has been created. Public organization of the youth of Afghanistan is playing an active part in the transformations.

One of the republic government's most important tasks at this time is to direct the PDPA's course of continuing land reform and the organization of new cooperatives, building up the country's industrial potential and waging the struggle against illiteracy and backwardness. Soviet specialists are providing great help for their Afghan friends in resolving these and other tasks.

Naturally the DRA's successes would have been immeasurably greater if there had been no impudent interference in the country's internal affairs from imperialist and other forces. The United States and a number of other Western countries, hand in hand with the Beijing hegemonists and regional reaction, are continuing their broad conspiracy against the republic. They spare neither money nor weapons for the counterrevolutionary rabble dispatched into the country from among the former feudals, landowners and compradore bourgeoisie entrenched in Pakistan and certain other states. An undeclared war is in fact being waged against Afghanistan. Thousands of saboteurs and terrorists are being infiltrated whose barbarous crimes cannot fail to arouse profound indignation. The blood of thousands of perfectly innocent people and the destruction of schools, hospitals and enterprises are on the conscience of the enemeies of the Afghan people. The export of counterrevolution from the United States and other countries is accompanied by a hysterical and slanderous campaign against the PDPA, the republic's government and the friends of the Afghan people.

In these severe conditions the struggle against the counterrevolution and foreign intervention remains the PDPA's most important task. The PDPA is implementing important measures to mobilize the people to destroy the enemy. Party members have a great role to play in strengthening the people's armed forces and creating detachments of activists to fight the bandits. "The people's armed forces," the newspaper (KHIVAD) recently noted, "are the genuine defenders of the revolution's gains, the country's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity and the interests of our motherland's working masses. The Afghan Army has taken on a historic mission and is led by the PDPA."

Afghanistan's enemies stop at nothing in their attempts to slander and distort Soviet-Afghan relations and to slander the noble mission of service by the limited contingent of Soviet troops which are in the DRA at the request of the country's lawful government to assist the Afghans in defending the country from outside aggression. But these attempts are doomed to failure. "The Afghan people," Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, stressed, "and all the country's national patriotic forces are convinced that if there had been no international assistance from the Soviet Union there would not have been an independent, free, proud and heroic Afghanistan today. Our country's people voice the tremendous gratitude to the CPSU and the Soviet people and government for this assistance."

Soviet people fully support the DRA's constructive proposals for a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and the demands for an end to armed interference in the republic's affairs.

The PDPA national conference will be a new step in the cause of further rallying the country's people around its revolutionary vanguard and a new confirmation of the invincibility of the revolutionary process in the country.

FURTHER ON USTINOV'S RETURN FROM INDIA

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 21 March publishes on page 1 a TASS report on Defense Minister Ustinov's return from India which has been compared to the Moscow TASS version published on page D 3 of the 22 March Daily Report under the subhead "Return to Moscow" and found to provide an additional passage on the welcoming party in Moscow and further details on the delegation accompanying Ustinov.

The following are listed as among the welcoming party:

> "Army General V.F. Tolubko, Army General V.I. Petrov, Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, Marshal of the Soviet Union K.S. Moskalenko, Army General S.K. Kurkotkin, Army General I.N. Shkadov, Army General A.T. Altunin and Marshal of Engineer Troops N.F. Shestopalov, USSR deputy defense ministers; Army General P.G. Lushev, commander of the Moscow Military District; and other military leaders."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA report concludes:

> "Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov, Army General V.M. Shabanov, Col Gen Engr M.A. Sergeychik and Army General V.I. Varennikov returned with D.F. Ustinov."

CEREMONY DEDICATES MONUMENT TO LENIN IN HANOI

LD260938 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] A monument was erected in Hanoi today to the leader of the world proletariat, Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Present at the ceremony were the leaders of the Vietnam Communist Party, a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Gorbachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and delegations from other fraternal parties which have arrived to take part in the work of the Fifth Congress of the Vietnam Communist Party. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Luong, Politburo member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee and first secretary of the Hanoi city party committee, and by Comrade Gorbachev. They stressed that erecting a monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin in the center of the Vietnamese capital is symbolic of the unity of the CPSU and the Vietnam Communist Party, of the loyalty of Vietnamese Communists to the banner of Leninism.

'RIMPAC 82' EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE PREPARATIONS

LD260102 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar (TASS) -- A Pentagon spokesman has confirmed that large-scale naval exercises codenamed "Rimpac-82" have begun in the Pacific. Fifty-eight warships, more than 120 aircraft and over 29,000 officers and men from the ground forces and marine of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are taking part. These "games," which are being held under the aegis of the Pentagon, are taking place in a triangular region bounded by U.S. naval bases at Honolulu, Hawaii, Hokosuka, Japan and Subic Bay, the Philippines. The "Rimpac-82" maneuvers are new evidence of Washington's active endeavors to draw its allies into the orbit of its aggressive military preparations in the Far East and in Southeast Asia.

MOSCOW PLANT AWARDED SRV ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP

PM250959 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 5

[S. Baygarov report: "They Kept Their Word"]

[Text] A ceremonial rally was held in the Palace of Culture at Moscow's Krasnyy Proletariy plant yesterday devoted to the fulfillment of increased pledges in honor of the Fifth Vietnam Communist Party Congress which opens in a few days. The enterprise's working people and also envoys from fraternal Vietnam gathered in the auditorium, which was decked the USSR and SRV state flags, banners and fresh flowers.

Nguyen Duc Thuan, chairman of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions and head of the delegation to the 17th Congress of USSR trade unions, who spoke at the rally, conveyed warm greetings from the SRV working people, in particular from the workers at Hanoi's No 1 machine plant with which the Krasnyy Proletariy workers are linked by more than 20 years of fruitful cooperation. The important new foreign policy initiatives contained in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the Soviet trade union congress, he stated, once again convincingly indicate that the USSR consistently advocates insuring peace and the people's security.

To tumultuous applause Nguyen Doc Thuan announced that for its great services in the cause of building socialism in Vietnam, the Krasnyy Proletariy plant has been awarded a high SRV state award -- the Order of Friendship. The plant's banner, which bears the Orders of Lenin, the October Revolution and the Labor Red Banner, was carried onto the stage. Vu Hoang, SRV charge d'affaires in the USSR, attached Vietnam's high award symbolizing the fraternal ties between the two countries' peoples to the Krasnyy Proletariy banner.

TASS TRANSMITS PAP REPORT ON SEJM RESOLUTION

LD261216 Moscow TASS in English 1103 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Warsaw,26 Mar (PAP) -- The Polish Sejm (parliament) yesterday confirmed the correctness and invariable character of the basic principles of Poland's foreign policy. They express the will of the Polish people to live in an independent, sovereign, socialist state, within secure borders, in external and internal peace, in this cooperation on the basis of mutual benefits.

The Sejm highly evaluates the results of the visit paid by the Polish party and state delegation to the Soviet Union. The fruits of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's talks with Leonid Brezhnev as well as the decisions taken as a result of this visit are an essential contribution to the overcoming of our difficulties.

On behalf of the Polish nation we are expressing thanks for the assistance which the allied socialist countries extend to us at difficult moments. We acknowledge with appreciation the positive actions of our partners in the West.

While rejecting and condemning the totally groundless attempts of interference in Poland's internal affairs on the part of some Western states and circles, the Sejm solemnly declares the will of peaceful coexistence and cooperation with all, and especially with those who show Poland sympathy and understanding for her difficult situation, who see an integral component of European peace in the stabilization in our country.

The Sejm approves the goals and tasks of the Polish foreign policy which have been presented by the foreign minister, and recognizes the following of them as specially important:

The concentration of all international efforts of our state on the creation of conditions favouring the extrication of Poland from the crisis,

The intensification of actions serving effective economic cooperation within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, in relations with the industrial capitalist countries and the developing countries,

An opposition to the attmepts to discriminate Poland economically and politically as well as at limitation of our influence on the shaping of the situation in Europe,

An increase of our activity in favour detente and lasting peace in Europe and the world, the support for Soviet disarmament proposals and decisions.

In the realization of the above-mentioned tasks the Polish Government has the support of all the Poles who are guided by the feeling of responsibility for the country and peace in Europe.

MATERIALS ON SOLOMENTSEV BULGARIA TOUR

Solomentsev Speech

PM260801 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet-Bulgarian Friendship Meeting"]

[Excerpt] Sofia, 18 Mar -- M.S. Solomentsev, head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, spoke. He said in particular: It is with special joy that I convey to you words of greeting and wishes for peace, prosperity and the further flowering of your wonderful motherland -- words and wishes suffused with spiritual warmth and abiding love -- from L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, a long standing and loyal friend of the Bulgarian people.

The Soviet Union and Bulgaria are united by ties of truly fraternal friendship. This friendship is rooted deep in our peoples' history.

It strengthened in the joint struggle for the ideals of freedom and justice and united and augmented the forces of the revolutionary democratic movement in Russia and the national liberation movement in Bulgaria.

Our present meeting coincides with the 34th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid between the USSR and Bulgaria. This important document, like the 1967 treaty which replaced it, reflected the enormous socioeconomic changes in our countries and the fraternal friendship between the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples.

The cohesion and ideological and political unity of the CPSU and the BCP are the core of Soviet-Bulgarian fraternity. Reliable pointers to the constant deepening of Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation in literally all spheres of life are provided by the regular meetings and talks between the leaders of our parties and states -- Comrades L.I. Brezhnev and T. Zhivkov.

Soviet people assess highly and prize friendship with their Bulgarian brothers. "The loyal friendship of the Soviet Union and Bulgaria and their increasing proximity and our all-around cooperation," L.I. Brezhnev noted, " are our common precious asset." As loyal and true friends, Soviet people rejoice in the Bulgarian working people's remarkable successes in building a developed socialist society and attaining the lofty goals set by the 12th BCP Congress.

Noting, at the 26th CPSU Congress, the fraternal countries' varied and positive experience in resolving national economic tasks, L.I. Brezhnev particularly stressed the significance of the useful forms of the agroindustrial cooperative movement found in Bulgaria. These achievements reflect the enormous creative potential of the socialist economy and the importance of the natural laws of social development revealed by Marxist-Leninist science and confirmed by the experience of real socialism.

The 26th CPSU Congress held a year ago, the delegation head continued, provided a powerful creative charge for every labor collective and the entire country. The time which has elapsed since then has shown that the Communist Party is leading the country forward along the only correct Leninist course. Soviet people are persistently and selflessly resolving the task set by the congress -- ensuring in the eighties a resolute transition to predominantly intensive economic growth factors and achieving an improvement in the efficiency and quality of all social production.

Soviet people's attention is now focused on preparation for a major event in our people's life -- the 60th anniversary of the formation of the world's first unified allied multinational worker and peasant state, the USSR. Created under the leadership of the great Lenin in December 1922, the Soviet Union has shown convincingly that the peoples' cohesion in a single formation augments their strength and accelerates socioeconomic development. By a good tradition established in our countries, Soviet people seek to greet their state's jubilee with new achievements in labor and the successful fulfillment of the party congress decisions.

The conservation of peace is the most important precondition for resolving all our constructive tasks. Upholding and strengthening peace -- there is no task of greater importance in international relations now. Through the fault of the aggressive circles of imperialism the world situation has recently been gravely complicated. The United States and its NATO allies are pursuing the arms race and gambling increasingly openly on force and the resurrection of a cold war atmosphere.

With Bulgaria and the other Warsaw Pact members and socialist community countries, the Soviet Union resolutely opposes confrontation and the fueling of tension and the arms race.

In the prevailing situation, the speaker continued, the Soviet Union is seeking even more persistently the implementation of the peace program for the eighties adopted by the 26th CPSU Congress.

The USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the world's parliaments and peoples is aimed at this. At the USSR Trade Union Congress now under way in Moscow L.I. Brezhnev came out with a new package of peace initiatives. Their goal is to take practical steps to promote the normalization of the situation and to turn the development of international life toward detente and peace.

We were deeply moved by the manifestations of the fraternal solidarity of the Bulgarian Communists and working people with L.I. Brezhnev's new peace initiatives. For their part the CPSU, the Soviet Union and our people support by every means the detailed peace action program which defines Bulgaria's efforts to strengthen detente and deepen mutual understanding and cooperation among the peoples -- the program proclaimed at the 12th BCP Congress and developed in Comrade T. Zhivkov's subsequent speeches. The transformation of the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear weapons, which socialist Bulgaria consistently advocates, would be an effective and important step in this direction.

Unity and cohesion multiply the strength of the communists many times over in their struggle for supreme justice on Earth, for peace and the working people's happiness. So it was during the years when the world communist movement was only being formed, when gradually, in a hard struggle, it took possession of people's minds and hearts. So it remains today, now that the fraternal community of the socialist countries has become a very important factor of world development and a reliable guarantee of peace and social progress.

In conclusion M.S. Solomentsev, on behalf of the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the USSR and the multi-national Soviet people, wished the fraternal Bulgarian people and their Communist Party further successes in socialist building.

Today the Soviet delegation visited a farm at the (Sredets) agroindustrial complex near the capital. The guests familiarized themselves with the activity of the agroindustrial complex and viewed the stockraising complex and flower hothouse.

The Soviet delegation also visited the capital's (Vitosha) sewn goods factory. The head of the delegation wished the factory's workers further successes in resolving the tasks set by the 12th BCP Congress.

With the delegation was S. Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

Delegation Continues Tour

PM250943 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] Sofia, 20 Mar (TASS) -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, which is in Bulgaria at the invitation of the Bulgarian National Assembly, is continuing its tour of the country.

Today the Soviet guests visited one of Bulgaria's biggest industrial enterprises -- the Burgas petrochemicals combine. D. Minchev, director of the combine, spoke of the enterprise's achievements and further development prospects, the fulfillment of the program of social provision for the combine workers and the organization of socialist competion. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Government and the Soviet people for their invaluable help in the erection of this giant of the petrochemicals industry, which is rightly called the offspring of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship.

On the same day the delegation visited the (Pomoriye) agrarian-industrial complex.

The delegation was accompanied by S. Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly, and N.P. Tolubeyev, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

LCY CC PLENUM DISCUSSES ACTIVITY, TASKS

PM241143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 5

[TASS report: "LCY Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Mar -- An LCY Central Committee plenum was held here today. It approved the draft report on the LCY Central Committee's work and the main avenues of LCY activity in the period between the congresses and examined draft amendments and additions to the LCY statutes. These documents will be submitted for discussion by the 12th LCY Congress, which is to take place in June of this year.

S. Dolanc, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, who delivered a report at the plenum, stressed the LCY's increasing role in the life of society. In the period which has elapsed, he said, in its capacity as the leading ideological and political force the LCY, together with the working class and all working people, has actively helped to resolve urgent socioeconomic tasks. The LCY's membership, which currently stands at more than 2,100,000, has noticeably increased. There have been definite achievements in the sphere of economic development; in particular, industrial production and exports are up and the foreign trade deficit is down.

At the same time the speaker pointed out a number of difficulties and shortcomings which have arisen in the country's economic development in recent years. These include a balance of payments deficit, a high level of foreign debts, an insufficiently high level of labor productivity, overspending and violation of the unity of the domestic market.

Solving these problems, which are adversely affecting the country's all-round development, he said, is the LCY's first priority. The coming 12th congress must realistically and objectively identify the causes of the difficulties, create the conditions needed to effectively resolve them and outline new development targets. Therein lies the LCY's historic responsibility for this socialist country's destiny.

CPCZ AIDES STUDY CPSU LEADERSHIP OF CULTURE

PM250925 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the CPCZ, a delegation of CPCZ party workers headed by M. Mueller, director of the CPCZ Central Committee Cultural Department, was in Moscow 15 through 18 March.

The Czechoslovak comrades familiarized themselves with the experience of the CPSU's work in fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress in the cultural sphere, had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee Culture Departments, the USSR Ministry of Culture, the USSR Writers' Union and the USSR Artists' Union and visited the M. Gorkiy movie studio.

The delegation was received by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. There was a warm, friendly talk in which V.F. Shauro, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department, took part.

HUNGARY'S GASPAR TALKS WITH TU LEADER IN MOSCOW

PM241649 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Talk at the International Metalworkers' Federation"]

[Text] S. Gaspar, WFTU chairman, and I. Zakaria, general secretary of the International Metalworkers' Federation [IFM], visited the IFM headquarters in Moscow on 19 March. During the talk with the IFM leadership, topical problems of the federation's activity and preparations for and the holding of the ninth International Trade Union conference of metal industry workers were touched on.

GRISHIN CONGRATULATES HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS

WA260100 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 82 p 1

[Unattributed report under general heading "Congratulatory Telegram"]

[Text] V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, and V.F. Promyslov, chairman of the Moscow Ispolkom, sent a congratulatory telegram to Comrade Laszlo Maroti, member of the Politburo of the MSZMP Central Committee and first secretary of the Budapest city party committee, as well as to Comrade Zoltain Sepvolgyi, chairman of the Budapest City Council, on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of Budapest's liberation from fascism. The telegram reads as follows:

On the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the liberation of Budapest from fascism, the Moscow Gorkom, the Moscow Ispolkom, and workers of the capital send hearty congratulations to the Budapest City MSZMP Committee, to the city council, and to all the inhabitants of your city.

It makes us truly happy that in the past years the Budapest workers, participating actively under the leadership of the city party organization in building a socialist society and in the political and social life of the country, have achieved great success in developing the economy, science, and culture of the city and in improving the well-being of the people.

We note with satisfaction that friendly ties and cooperation of many years standing are developing successfully between Moscow and Budapest, making a significant contribution in strengthening fraternal Soviet-Hungarian friendship.

Dear comrades, communists, workers of the capital of the Hungarian Peoples Republic, we wish you further successes in building a developed socialist society, in fulfilling the tasks set forth by the 11th MSZMP Congress.

TASS REPORTS OPENING OF GDR PEOPLE'S CHAMBER

LD251410 Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Berlin, 25 Mar TASS -- The People's Chamber (supreme body of state power) of the GDR opened its session here today. Attended by General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, President of the State Council Erich Honecker.

The agenda of the session includes a debate on new bills and other documents aimed at the further strengthening and consolidation of socialism in the GDR, perfection of socialist democracy.

IZVESTIYA COMMENTS ON MITTERRAND ISRAEL VISIT

PM251145 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 82 Morning Edition p 5

[Unnamed correspondent dispatch under the rubric "Pertinent Remarks": "Results of Visit"]

[Text] Paris -- The response elicited by French President F. Mitterrand's visit to Israel can still be heard in the French capital. The majority of commentators point out that Paris has not managed to demonstrate that its Near East policy is "balanced" enough and maintains an equal distance from both Israel and the Arab people of Palestine. The visit's results, it is emphasized here, have shown that a pro-Israeli tilt could not be avoided.

During the visit the Israeli leaders did not back down one iota from their aggressive policy. M. Begin's statements were deliberately and demonstratively couched in "hawkish" tones. The Israeli side provocatively proclaimed Tel Aviv's annexationist, anti-Palestinian program. In making their guest listen to such speeches the hosts were quite unconcerned that they were placing him in an awkward, ambiguous position. Local and foreign press commentators agree that, in the final analysis, Paris' foreign policy action proved a boon not for France or the cause of a just settlement in the Near East but, rather, for Tel Aviv and its aggressive policy and, consequently, for Washington as the inspirer of that policy.

What is particularly noteworthy is that M. Begin and his entourage insisted strongly on receiving the exalted guest from France with all honor and official ceremony in Jerusalem -- a city occupied by Israeli soldiery. They endeavored to present this circumstance as virtual support for the Zionist claims to turning Jerusalem into Israel's "eternal capital" -- claims rejected by the Arabs, and not only by Arabs.

During his stay in Israel the French president spoke in support of the notorious Camp David agreement, although few people now believe that that deal can lead to any positive results in surmounting the crisis situation in the Near East which troubles the entire progressive world. Both the French president and his minister of external relations apparently abandoned the platform jointly elaborated by the Common Market member states with regard to a settlement of the situation in the Near East -- a platform which has been displeasing Washington all this time.

Nor have journalistic circles overlooked the fact that the question of French military deliveries to Israel was also discussed during the talks in Jerusalem.

The results of the visit to Israel have elicited an adverse response from many Arab countries which, AFP points out, "were hoping that the French would put forward a clear initiative in the matter of settling the Near East crisis." It has been learned here that an official commentator on Riyadh radio (Saudi Arabia) for example, suggested that the visit represents "France's first step on a path leading away from the Arab states." Such a stand, in the commentator's opinion, could make the Arab world revise its attitude toward France.

The Arab states' unfavorable reaction, local journalistic circles point out, clouded the results of the visit, on which considerable hopes had, by all accounts, been pinned. But it did not bring France any tangible political benefits or concrete results.

Whereas Tel Aviv is pleased, French and foreign press commentaries voice regret that France's high international standing has not been used as it ought and has not served the interests of a just and comprehensive political settlement in the Near East.

FINLAND'S KOIVISTO, ZOMANOV MEET IN LENINGRAD

LD252050 Leningrad Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Finnish President Mauno Koivisto is on a business visit in our country at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. On March 10 he arrived in Leningrad from Moscow.

Today Finnish President Koivisto visited the Smolnyy. During a friendly conversation Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom, emphasized that Leningraders like all Soviet people, have reacted favorably to the highest level Soviet-Finnish talks in Moscow. We, Comrade Romanov said, welcomed with deep satisfaction the statement made by Mauno Koivisto in Moscow that Finland will steadily continue to follow the foreign policy line of presidents Juho Kusti Paasikivi and Urho Kaleva Kekkonen. The central place in this policy is occupied by the comprehensive development of relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the 1948 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid. We also appreciate the high evaluation given by the Finnish president to the initiatives of Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on behalf of a dialogue between the superpowers. Soviet people give complete support to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's statement in Moscow that Finland is not neutral on questions of war and peace and that its voice is well heard in international affairs. This voice is on the side of peace and against war.

Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov acquainted the guest with the basic directions of the activity of the Leningrad party organization for the implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the fulfillment of the plan for the comprehensive economic and social development of Leningrad and Leningradskaya Oblast for the 11th 5-Year Plan.

During the conversation both sides expressed satisfaction at the high level of Soviet-Finnish relations. It was noted that there is an aspiration for the further expansion and deepening of bilateral cooperation. It was emphasized that the business visit by Mauno Koivisto to the USSR will provide a new impulse to the further development of traditional, friendly Soviet-Finnish relations.

SORSA: FINLAND-USSR RELATIONS ON 'FIRM BASIS'

PM250951 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 5

[TASS report: "On a Firm Basis"]

[Text] Helsinki, 17 Mar -- The results of the working visit by Finnish President Mauno Koivisto to the Soviet Union and also the reception accorded to him indicate that relations between Finland and the Soviet Union are continuing to develop on a firm basis, Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of the Finnish Social Democratic Party [SSDP] and Finnish prime minister, stated at a session of the SSDP council today.

Relations between the two countries, he said, are of a mutually advantageous nature and do not depend on the vicissitudes of international politics.

Touching on the present complex international situation and the need to step up actions by peace-loving forces against the threat of war, K. Sorsa stressed the tremendous importance of efforts by the world public, which is coming out in defense of peace today.

TURKEY'S TURKMEN CITED ON TIES WITH NATO, USSR

PM241157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 5

[Correspondent A. Filippov report: "Turkey's Course"]

[Text] Ankara, 20 Mar -- Addressing the Association of Foreign Journalists here, Turkish Foreign Minister I. Turkmen stated that the development of all-round relations with the West and the United States and active membership of the NATO bloc is the dominant factor in Ankara's foreign policy course.

At the same time he noted that Turkey's loyalty to its allied commitments to the West does not mean that the country must refrain from developing useful ties with the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and other socialist countries. The minister said that relations with the USSR are of a stable good-neighborly nature, which accords with Turkey's interests.

Setting forth the country's policy on the states of the Near and Middle East, I. Turkmen noted in particular that Ankara supports the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and condemns Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

LEBANESE DELEGATION MEETS USSR OFFICIALS

NC251748 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The Lebanese parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Dr Amin al-Hafiz is continuing contacts and meetings with officials in the Soviet Union. The delegation has signed a cooperation agreement on the Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Society. It has also held several meetings with Soviet officials and discussed Lebanese-Soviet relations and current political issues on the regional and international levels. The head of the delegation, Dr Amin al-Hafiz, and Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah have laid wreaths at the tombs of Lenin and the Unknown Soldier.

Minister Hamadah has met in Moscow with the Soviet ministers of tourism and culture and discussed relations in the tourism and cultural fields. He has also visited the PRAVDA newspaper offices and inspected work there. The delegation expected to meet this afternoon with Deputy Soviet Chairman Polyakov.

BRUTENTS LEADS CPSU DELEGATION TO PDRY

PM250905 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] TASS -- In accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Yemen Socialist Party a delegation of CPSU party workers headed by K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, left for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 17 March.

MUBARAK RESISTS PRESSURE FOR JERUSALEM VISIT

PM251607 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 5

[Dispatch from correspondent V. Peresada: "Stepping Up the Pressure"]

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar -- A session of the Egyptian-Israeli commission for the final withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula opened in Tel Aviv today. The Egyptian delegation is headed by K. 'Ali, Egypt's minister of foreign affairs. According to press reports this is to be the "final stage of discussions" on the eve of the withdrawal of troops scheduled for 25 April.

As commentators are pointing out, the current negotiations are taking place in a climate of increased pressure on Cairo from Tel Aviv. The pressure is aimed at persuading Egypt to take steps which would increase its isolation in the Arab world in exchange for the return of Sinai. To this end attempts are being made to force the Egyptian president to visit annexed Jerusalem during his coming visit to Israel. The Israeli Government is even threatening to possibly cancel the visit unless this "condition" is met.

But Egypt has also taken a hard line in response to the Israeli pressure. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH H. Mubarak said that a visit to Jerusalem is impossible.

PAPER VIEWS ARRIVAL OF U.S. MFO UNITS IN SINAI

PM260857 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 3

[TASS correspondent N. Setunskiy report: "With a View to Armed Blackmail"]

[Text] New York, 20 Mar -- American "commandos" with carbines at the ready marching on Arab soil -- that was the picture in the New York TIMES accompanying reportage on American troop subunits forming part of the so-called "Multinational Forces" [and Observers, MFO] arriving on the Sinai Peninsula.

Transferred from Pope Air Force base (North Carolina) in American-produced Israeli aircraft, the cutthroats from the 82d Airborne Division, which is part of the interventionist Rapid Deployment Force, set off in march formation for a military base near the Gulf of Na'ama.

For the first time since 1958, when American Marines landed in Lebanon, the Pentagon has managed to implement its longstanding plans and supplement the U.S. naval and air force presence in the Near East by stationing American ground forces in this strategically important region on a permanent basis. The articles of the separate Camp David treaty providing for the knocking together under Washington's auspices the notorious "multinational forces" were used to implement these aggressive schemes. The Reagan administration needed the title "multinational" for the forces to lend a semblance of "legality" to the de facto occupation of the Sinai Peninsula by American troops, who will replace the Israeli occupying forces there.

The U.S. presence in Sinai is only part of Washington's vast long-term plan to create a mighty military strike force in the Near East with a view to armed blackmail and intimidation of those countries in the region that pursue an independent policy that is not to the U.S. liking. The expanding network of American military bases in this part of the world, with bases created or being used by the Pentagon in Egypt, Israel, Somalia, Oman and Kenya, is also designed to promote the implementation of these schemes. American troop subunits and combat hardware are already stationed at many bases. Sizable U.S. naval forces are concentrated in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf region.

All these militarist preparations show graphically the actual source of the threat to the countries and peoples of the oil-rich Near East.

TASS NOTES ISRAELI DISMISSAL OF WEST BANK MAYORS

LD251528 Moscow TASS in English 1508 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Amman, 25 Mar, TASS -- Israeli occupation authorities today arrested and discharged from office the mayors of the cities of Nabulus and Ramallah on the West Bank of the Jordan River. They are charged with "activity violating public tranquillity" in the occupied lands.

Several days ago the Israeli authorities discharged Ibrahim Tawil as mayor of Al-Birah, which led to large-scale Arab protests in the country and abroad.

Tel Aviv is striving to annex another primordial Arab territory, the West Bank of the Jordan, following its annexation of the Arab sector of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. The Arab mayors' position is seen as an obstacle to the expansionist course.

They refuse to acknowledge a civil administration of the territory whose appointment was regarded by Arabs as preparation for direct annexation. Israeli authorities resort to quite a variety of means of harassment against insubmissive mayors, from arrests on framed-up charges to attempts on their lives.

The new act of blatant tyranny against legitimate Arab representatives in the Israeli-occupied lands has given rise to indignation among the progressive world and Israeli public. Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer known for her activity in defence of the Arabs' rights in the occupied lands said she was launching a legal action over the arrest of the Nabulus and Ramallah mayors.

RADIO DISCUSSES BEGIN GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS

TA251129 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The reckless policy of the present Israeli Government has once again led to the Knesset raising the question of whether this government can continue in power. This time, as is known, the vote was a 58-58 tie.

Characteristicly, Menahem Begin adopted a countertactic. He turned to his Cabinet members and consulted them on whether or not to stay at the helm of the government. And of course, he received an affirmative answer.

So, instead of an acrimonious debate on the prime minister's ability to function, on the extent to which the country's inhabitants and the Knesset members have confidence in him, and on the tragic implications of his policy -- there occurred a great farce.

In the meantime it is difficult to say what will happen next. Will the president intervene? How will the Israeli public express its view of this Knesset vote? And how does the ruling coalition intend to go on leading the state when it does not even enjoy a minimal majority in the Knesset?

One can say today that the earth is crumbling under Begin's government, firstly, because of its perverse adherence to a policy of perpetuating the occupation of the territories, and because it is doing all that it can to annex Arab territories. The tragic events of the last few days in the West Bank -- in which the inhabitants have declared a general strike, where tens of thousands are taking to the streets to demand an end to the occupation and where Begin's emissaries shoot defenseless demonstrators -- clearly prove that this policy is doomed to failure.

One is compelled to recognize that what is involved here is the collapse of the very strategy of occupation on the one hand and the intensifying struggle of the Arabs for their trampled rights, for their indisputable right to be the masters of their own land on the other. As a result of this struggle, Israel's security is confronted with increasingly greater dangers.

Are the members of the government capable of seriously analyzing the situation? If so, how can they have ignored for so many years, and especially recently, the fact that the Arab world today -- more than in the past -- is able to stand up to Israel in its struggle to eradicate Israeli occupation? How can Begin and his ministers ignore Israel's standing alone in the world and that there is no state it can rely on to rescue it.

This is also demonstrated by U.S. maneuvers in the United Nations during debates on Israel's aggressive and annexationist actions. U.S. leadership circles are of course interested in maintaining tension in the Middle East. But nevertheless every U.S. Government harbors fears that supporting Begin's radical pretensions will wreak political damage, even within the United States itself.

There are more and more Knesset members who either take these facts into account or who oppose on principle the policy of perpetuating the occupation. But in any case the ones to decide on this matter will be the people of Israel. Whether or not Begin remains at the government's helm depends, in the final analysis, on the man in the street. It is not a question of reshuffling government members. Rather it is a question of war and peace, a question of the future of Israel.

USSR REPLACES, REASSIGNS AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ

PM241551 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 82 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Viktor Ivanovich Minin USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Iraq.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Barkovskiy of his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Iraq in connection with his reassignment.

GENERAL SCORES U.S. POLICY AT AAPSO MEETING

LD251606 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- The United States' desire to tie developing countries to a nuclear chariot inflicts an irreparable social and economic damage upon Asian and African states, pushes the world to a military confrontation. This was stated today by Soviet General Viktor Tatarnikov at a meeting of the presidential disarmament committee of the Organization for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity. The meeting opened here on Wednesday.

The military expert emphasized that the American administration seeks to "gain a firm foot in developing countries." The White House declares any area of the globe where there are oil, uranium and other strategic raw materials as a sphere of its vital interests.

We see he said that new American military bases are now being established in different parts of the world; 25 of them are located in African countries. The Pentagon conducts intensive preparations for deployment of new contingents of troops in Southeast Asian states.

In the opinion of the Soviet general, the sale of American arms to developing countries brings not only huge profit to U.S. monopolies but also intensifies military and political penetration of the United States into countries of the region.

Viktor Tatarnikov emphasized: "The USSR has never been striving for military superiority. Our desire is in alliance with peace forces of Asia and Africa, other states of the world to bar the way to a nuclear catastrophe."

Tatarnikov recalled the important Soviet peace initiatives which were put forward by Leonid Brezhnev at the 17th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions and reaffirmed once again in his yesterday's speech in Tashkent. Leonid Brezhnev, the general said, stressed once again that the Soviet policy in Asia was the policy of peace and cooperation.

BRIEFS

GHANAIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES -- Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- A Ghanaian Government delegation led by a member of the Provisional National Defence Council Chris Atim arrived in Moscow today for a friendly visit. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0902 GMT 25 Mar 82 LD]

U.S. REACTION TO GUATEMALAN COUP VIEWED

Kornilov Analysis

LD251826 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT 25 Mar 82

[By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- Double standards, attempts, while shamelessly distorting the essence of any political event, to depict it in a light advantageous to the United States, to "adjust" it to requirements of global American policy -- all this has now become Washington's every-day political practice. Another confirmation of that is the reaction of the U.S. ruling circles and, following them, also American propaganda to the military coup d'etat in Guatemala.

The meaning of the events in Guatemala is obvious: A military putsch took place in the country. Power was usurped with the help of arms by extremely right-wing, reactionary, anti-people's forces which started their activity from suspending the Constitution and dissolving the congress. They eliminated even the pitiful political camouflage which was bound (as it took place in the course of the recent elections in Guatemala) to lend though some semblance of "democracy" to the dictatorial regime which existed in the country. What is the reaction of "champions of democracy" in Washington to all that?

No reaction at all. One does not hear from official Washington a single word of condemnation of the military grouping which usurped power in Guatemala. Moreover: As is clear from pronouncements of a number of foreign press publications -- for instance the London TIMES -- at the U.S. Department of State they even express "privately" satisfaction with the developments in Guatemala where one bloody clique was replaced by another -- still more bloody. French television does not rule out Washington's direct involvement in the putsch in Guatemala. But Washington itself which, we repeat, did not utter a single world of condemnation of the putschists' actions, laments... "lack of information" about about the developments in Guatemala.

An amazing "lack of information," just unusual for Washington! The more so that it is well known to all: When certain circles in the United States deem it advantageous, for the sake of attaining their unseemly foreign policy aims, to fan up a hullabaloo over imaginary "violations of democracy and human rights" in these or other countries, whose policy is not to their liking, Washington does not need either facts or even hints of facts to do so -- slander, all sorts of frauds, shamelessly fabricated in the United States itself are put into play. Suffice it to recall, say, the campaign of slander, unleashed by Washington, in connection with the events in Poland the government of which, acting in strict accordance with the constitution of the country, took steps to bar the way to counterrevolution, to save the country from chaos and disorganization. Fanning up this campaign in Washington, we repeat, they do not disdain to use anything -- either downright lies, or very rough frauds.

But official Washington displays "restraint" and does not find a single word to denounce the initiators of the military coup d'etat in Guatemala, where one witnesses not invented but quite real flouting of the most elementary foundations of democracy, where the putschists, fitted out with American arms, usurped power, stamping out such notions as "freedom" and "human rights" -- is it not evidence of hyprocrisy and pharisaism of Washington's "champions of democracy"?

Franklin Roosevelt, it seems, speaking in his time of the Nicaraguan dictator -- Somoza's father -- expressed himself in such a way: "He is certainly a son of a bitch, but he is our son of a bitch." There is every indication that this apology for a "principle" is the guide for action for those circles in Washington which are preparing gradually to justify actions of the military in Guatemala which is turning that country into a small darker prison.

PRAVDA Commentary

LD260638 Moscow TASS in English 0633 GMT 26 Mar 82

["PRAVDA on the Coup D'Etat in Guatemala" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- The very first steps of the junta formed by representatives of the ultra-rightist circles of the Guatemalan military that came to power as a result of a military coup, PRAVDA writes, indicate that one sharply expects substantial changes in Guatemala. In one of his statements, General Rios Montt who is heading the junta uttered threats to the patriots, who are waging struggle for the restoration of democracy and freedoms in Guatemala, and threatened to destroy them if they do not down arms.

"The coup in Guatemala," PRAVDA writes, "has caused confusion in Washington. The coup obviously does not fit into the U.S. scheme for repainting the facades of reactionary dictatorial regimes in Central America by means of 'elections.' The 'elections' of March 7 are known to have been supported by the White House to get if only some legal plea for a more active aid to El Salvador and Guatemala and to their so-called 'constitutionally elected, democratic governments.'"

"In point of fact the putsch in Guatemala," the commentary emphasizes, "has spoiled the U.S. game only for a time. And although the dictatorial regime is again in power, U.S. officials are already hinting that the Reagan administration intends to resume military aid to that country. It is obvious that Washington is speaking of 'democratization' in Guatemala only for the sake of appearances while it has been and remains the U.S. administration's paramount concern to make efforts to prevent at all costs unwelcome-to-the-USA social changes in that country."

U.S. 'FALLS FLAT' OVER EL SALVADOR CLAIMS

LD252054 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Falsehoods Revealed" -- TASS headline; by TASS political observer Nikolay Chigir]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- There were a lot of flops in the history of U.S. diplomacy connected with the exposure of falsehoods and forgeries to which its makers often resort. But it is rarely that heads of the U.S. State Department landed in such a scandalous situation as the one in which they are now in connection with the unbridled anti-Cuban and anti-Nicaraguan campaign of slander they have unleashed. U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and his assistants are in an unenviable position. They let their imagination run away with them to prove what cannot be approved, namely that Cuba and Nicaragua are "interfering" in internal affairs of El Salvador and other Central American countries. They are stubbornly clutching at this false thesis for it is the sole "argumentation" by which the Reagan administration tries to justify its interventionist policy in El Salvador and in Central America and in the Caribbean as a whole.

But no matter how many times a lie is repeated it will not become more plausible. But officials of the U.S. State Department, apparently, have a different view and they fall flat on their faces now and again. So this happened with the head of U.S. State Department in connection with another "document" that the it published a few days ago about the backing of the insurgents' movement in El Salvador by Cuba and Nicaragua.

The new revelation of the State Department differs from the previous such "documents," "reports" and "white papers" which the U.S. press itself ridiculed as groundless and lacking proof in only one thing, that its authors, unwittingly, showed at once the utter untenability of the assertions contained in it. In the first lines of the "document" there is a warning that it has a generalized character and does not contain classified information for it cannot be published broadly.

But who will believe this verbiage, who will believe that if the State Department had if only one fact confirming its slander of Cuba and Nicaragua it would conceal it? The matter is that such facts simply do not exist.

At the same time the 'document' abounds in references to certain anonymous "sources" including anonymous journalists, who, it is stated, confirmed many times many aspects of the overall picture that is presented by the State Department.

Indeed, the cynicism of the authors of the "document" is boundless: Those journalists who try to present the real picture of the situation in El Salvador are not merely threatened, they are simply killed. This is how four Dutch journalists died, and this bloody crime was committed by the Salvadoran military which is patronized by Washington.

The "document" contains references to a certain "Salvadoran guerrilla." In this connection it would not be amiss to mention the disgraceful flop of the "show" organized recently by the U.S. Department of State during which journalists were presented a "soldier of the Nicaraguan Army," who, allegedly, underwent special training in Cuba and in Ethiopia and was sent to El Salvador to assist rebels. The Nicaraguan youth, however, said that these assertions of the State Department were lies and that he had been forced to repeat them by torture and threats to be killed.

One cannot but agree with the newspaper Washington POST which noted that after his unprecedented press conference in the State Department it is doubtful that the U.S. public can take seriously in the future any assertions of the administration about the so-called Cuban and Nicaraguan threat in Central America and the Caribbean.

PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ON U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PM251119 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 5

[Yuriy Zhukov "Political Observer's Notes": "Doctrine of Brigandage"]

[Text] Public opinion in the United States and Latin American countries is in a turmoil at the moment because of the profusion of reports from Washington about preparations for far-reaching U.S. military-political actions in Central America. In order to justify these actions official American propaganda is as usual putting forward the worn-out myth about the Soviet threat that allegedly exists in that region.

They are trying at all costs to convince ordinary Americans that Nicaraguans are commanding the Salvadoran partisans, that the Nicaraguans are being commanded by Cubans, North Koreans, Germans from the GDR, Bulgarians and Palestinians and that they are all under the orders of the Russians."

In their zeal leading figures in the American administration have already made fools of themselves more than once. What is the value -- even though it was made by Secretary of State A. Haig to House of Representatives subcommittee on operations abroad -- of a statement to the effect that, apparently, in a certain unnamed village inhabited by Indians "there appeared Nicaraguans, Cubans and other Caucasians who did not speak Spanish and were obviously (?!) Russians....They ordered all the inhabitants of the village to congregate by the church without their belongings, killed anyone who protested on the spot and razed the village to the ground. All the cattle and other animals, including cats and dogs, were destroyed."

When Long, chairman of this subcommittee, asked for evidence that the "Salvadoran rebels are being led by foreigners," he was refused on the pretext that "this could endanger the informants."

It is natural that ploys of this kind do not inspire confidence in those to whom they are addressed -- everyone remembers very well that it is the United States that is constantly intervening in the affairs of Latin America and not "Caucasians" at all. As recently as 16 March CBS TV commentator B. Moyers, who had just returned from a trip to Central American countries, cited many examples of this sort of interference.

"Since 1798," he pointed out, "the United States has carried out 14 armed actions against Mexico, 13 against Cuba, 11 against Panama, 10 against Nicaragua, 9 against the Dominican Republic, 7 against Colombia, 7 against Honduras, 5 against Haiti, 3 against Puerto Rico and 2 against Guatemala."

And here Washington has made truly extraordinary efforts to find some justification for the new adventures they are preparing against "insubordinate" Latin Americans. Official administration spokesmen say that "the El Salvador problem is not only of regional but of global significance" and that "Cuba is an important element in this problem in that it is precisely that country that has united the left-wing parties in El Salvador" and that "the USSR is also involved."

According to the Washington POST a State Department spokesman has hinted that the United States has used or intends to use pressure on the Soviet Union. "According to him," the Washington POST continued, "the Russians will possibly be asked to consider what would happen if the United States thought it had the right to interfere" in the countries of the socialist community.

This same bellicose anonymous high-ranking official also threateningly stated that President Reagan had ordered the Pentagon to "elaborate operational contingency plans for an emergency situation" which would..." make provision for direct military actions against Cuba in unspecified circumstances."

All this, of course, is not new. It is well known that this is not the first year that the U.S. secret services have been conducting their subversive activities against Poland, the USSR and other socialist, indeed, not only socialist, countries. What is new, however, is that this time it is not some irresponsible figure who is coming forward with this doctrine of brigandage but an official government spokesman. What is this -- blackmail? An attempt to intimidate someone? Wasted effort! Soviet people and the people of the other socialist countries have strong nerves and do not yield to provocation.

"Objectively speaking," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in his speech at the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress, "the policy of further heating the international atmosphere, escalating the arms race and destroying normal ties between states does not bode well for any people. And that includes the American people, of course. On the other hand, it could cause considerable misfortune to mankind as a whole. That is why we are firmly convinced that this sort of policy cannot win the peoples' support and that it has no future. And the sooner its initiators understand this, the better it will be for everyone."

Is it not time, therefore, that those who are trying with maniacal persistence to turn American policy back to the times of the "cold war" which brought so much misfortune to America, abandoned their excessive and unrealistic ambitions and returned to the path of normal international cooperation in strict accordance with the treaties and agreements of the seventies which were signed by U.S. presidents?

U.S. APPROVES ALLOCATION FOR BROADCASTS TO CUBA

LD260318 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The United States has taken measures to promote President Reagan's plan for the opening of subversive radio broadcasts to Cuba. The foreign committee of the House of Representatives approved a $10 million allocation for the purpose. According to news agencies, the programs will be similar to those broadcast by the Liberty and Free Europe radio stations.

RASHIDOV SPEECH AT TASHKENT AWARD CEREMONY

LD261038 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 1335 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Speech by Sharaf Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, at 24 March ceremony devoted to the presentation of the Order of Lenin to the Uzbek SSR, at the People's Friendship Palace in Tashkent -- recorded]

[Text] Dear Leonid Ilich, dear members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, comrade deputies, esteemed guests: This year 24 March will go down as a golden page in the glorious annals of the Uzbek SSR. It will go down as a festival of universal rejoicing and spiritual excitement, as a demonstration of the triumph of the Leninist nationalities policy of the CPSU, the might and the creative power of the friendship of the peoples of the USSR.

This wonderful event is given particular significance and unrepeatable quality by the participation in our solemn meeting of our dear and warmly loved Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, ardent fighter for peace and the happiness of the peoples, great friend of all the nationalities and ethnic groups of the Soviet Union. [applause]

With all my heart, our dear Leonid Ilich, I wish you good health and new successes in your tireless activity on behalf of the triumph of the cause of communism and peace on Earth. [applause]

Comrades, at our solemn meeting, together with the members and candidate members of the Central Committee, members of the Auditing Commission of the Uzbekistan Communist Party, deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and of the Uzbek SSR, leading workers and innovators of industrial and agricultural production, party, administrative, trade union, Komsomol activists of the republic, men of the Soviet Army, party and labor veterans are also present.

It is very pleasing for us that we have among us on this joyful and exciting day Comrade Kunayev, Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, [applause] Comrade Usubaliyev, Turdakun Usubaliyevich, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Kirgizia Communist Party Central Committee; [applause] and Comrade Rasulov, Dzhabar Rasulovich, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Tadzhikistan Communist Party Central Committee, whom we warmly and sincerely welcome. [applause]

Dear Leonid Ilich, esteemed comrades, we have just witnessed an event that will occupy a special place in the history of Soviet Uzbekistan and will be retained forever in the memory of millions of its workers: Our republic has been presented with the homeland's highest award, the Order of Lenin. [applause] In receiving this award, allow me to express our very warmest gratitude and sincere thanks for the very high assessment of the selfless work of the working people, collective farmers and intelligentsia of Soviet Uzbekistan to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Government on behalf of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, the participants in the solemn meeting of communists and all the working people of the republic. [applause]

The working people of our republic are extremely happy that the Order of Lenin was presented today by you, our dear Leonid Ilich, worthy follower of the great Leninist cause, outstanding contemporary political and state figure -- a man with whose name the whole of progressive mankind links its hopes for a firm peace and happy future. [applause]

Your new visit to us and the presentation to the republic of the high award of the homeland is an event of vast importance and a convincing proof of the daily concern of the Leninist CPSU Central Committee for the flourishing of the economy and culture of Soviet Uzbekistan. [applause]

Your tireless labor promotes the flourishing of all the fraternal republics. Your labor is reflected in each of the 6 million tons of Uzbekistan's cotton and in the districts of the new Tashkent, which are firm and fine like the brotherhood of the Soviet people. Your labor is reflected in the industrial giants of the republic, its artificial seas and rivers and in the growing prosperity of the people. Many thanks for your paternal care, your constant help and support and your attention toward our republic. [applause]

Your unbreakable links with the masses and your tireless concern for the good of the working people have gained for you, dear Leonid Ilich, the warm love and gratitude of all Soviet people, the genuine joy and enthusiasm of the people of Tashkent who have met you and of all the working people and are yet another clear proof of the nationwide love for you and the nationwide admiration of your unparalleled activity in the guidance of the construction of a communist society. [applause] [passage indistinct]

The republic's successes are inseparable from the Leninist nationalities policy of the CPSU, the triumph of friendship fraternity and mutual aid of the Soviet peoples. We have a feeling of warm love and deep gratitude to the great Russian people, whose generous and selfless aid has helped Uzbekistan to overcome centuries-old backwardness and create a powerful industrial potential, a highly-mechanized agriculture and a developed culture. [applause]

We inextricably link the republic's successes with the raising of the vanguard role of communists and the development of their activity in production and social life and the all-round support of the initiatives of the working people. The party organization will continue to wage a resolute struggle against any deviations from the norms and principles of the Soviet way of life and will continue to create a healthy moral and psychological climate in (?party) aktivs, in which honest and conscientious work will expand in every way. In connection with this, the (?January) decision of the CPSU Central Committee on Samarkand Obkom, is an important document for the whole party. The republic's party organizations are persistently and purposefully working to implement it and steadfastly working to improve the organizational and ideological work in the light of the demands of the 26th party congress, seeking to ensure that it promotes an increase in the political, social and labor activity of the broad masses.

(?One of) the chief tasks of the communists and all the working people of the republic will be to constantly increase their contribution to the nationwide cause of building communism. Their actions to seek reserves creatively, to introduce brigade forms of organization of labor and improve the economic mechanism and to make skillful use of the achievements of scientific-technical progress and the thrifty expenditure of resources have allowed the working people of the republic to fulfill the socialist pledges of the first year of the 11th 5-Year Plan with honor.

New successes have been achieved by rural workers who counterposed to the unfavorable weather with their high level of organization and skill, the strength of advanced experience and the might of modern equipment. The achievement of 6 million tons of white gold is becoming the norm for the cotton growers.

Life moves forward and each of its stages brings its own problems. We rightly talk of our successes, but we see that we also have unsolved questions as well as shortcomings. Your speech today, dear Leonid Ilich, orientates us toward going further, achieving more and placing concern for people and concern for production at the center of our attention. [applause] [passage indistinct]

Cotton growing will continue to occupy a particular place in our work. We have been considering and still consider an increase in the output of this most valuable industrial crop a most important patriotic and internationalist [internatsionalnyy] duty of the republican toilers.

During your 1973 stay in Uzbekistan you set us important tasks aimed at the development of this sector. During the time that has elapsed since then the output of cotton has increased by 1/3 and exceeds 6 million tons for the second year in a row.

We have developed and subjected to regional testing new high yielding varieties of cotton and we are completing the introduction of crop rotation and integrated mechanization. Dear Leonid Ilich, each inhabitant of the republic remembers your words to the effect that clever hands create white gold. This wonderful figurative comparison contains not only respect for the work of a cotton grower but also a high appraisal of the cotton grower's calling and duty to the country and society. [applause]

The cotton growers of Uzbekistan are fully determined to please the homeland by producing 6 million tons of cotton, including 400,000 tons of fine-fibre cotton, in the second year of the 5-year plan period. We place great hopes on the friendly assistance and advice of cotton growers of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kirgizia, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenia, who are competing with us, in the completion of this task. [applause]

We realize our exceptional responsibility in the resolution of the food program. It is envisaged to procure 290,000 tons of meat; 815,000 tons of milk; and over 1 billion eggs in the republic in 1982, which is much more than the total volume of purchases for this year.

It is envisaged to produce almost as much milk, meat and eggs as had been produced in the republic in the 9th and 10th 5-year periods combined in the 11th 5-Year Plan period. [applause]

By accepting the lofty award, the Order of Lenin, we pledge our strength.

We thank you greatly for not disregarding our problems, shortcomings or omissions and for showing us the quickest ways of overcoming them. [applause]

We are very, very worried by the reduction in the more (?valuable) varieties in the total volume of cotton fiber. We will do everything to change the situation for the better already this (?year). New varieties of cotton with increased fibre quality are (?to make up) 40 percent of the area under cotton in Uzbekistan. By the end of the 5-year plan period the task of bringing the production of fine-fibre cotton up to 500,000 tons will be solved. The introduction of the complex [words indistinct] will make it possible to clear the fields of the harvest in October before the bad weather sets in.

Construction of drying and ginning shops, storehouses and sheds is underway in the republic. They will combine all procurement centers. Expansion of the capacity of the cotton ginning industry will make it possible to reduce sharply the time needed to process cotton. The creation of a complex of machines for cotton growing, machines of a new generation [words indistinct] is being speeded up.

We assure you, dear Leonid Ilich, that [words indistinct] the degree of utilization of industrial enterprises will be raised. For various reasons these are not operating at full capacity. We will ensure that the Bukhara, Tashkent and other spinning and textile combines in the republic are fully staffed. Our works will increase the production of cement and mineral fertilizers. Attention will be increased at building sites due for completion and building sites that are especially important and the necessary labor and material resources will be concentrated on them. We pledge that we will put new capacities into operation in good time and will quickly master them.

Good results are being yielded by the practice of creating branches and shops of enterprises in small towns and rayon centers. We intend to expand and perfect this practice.

You, dear Leonid Ilich, have set us far-reaching tasks for the wider expansion of Uzbekistan's participation in the country's major new building sites. This is a very honorable assignment. Uzbekistan will increase its international contribution to rebuilding the agriculture of the Non-Chernozem Zone and to the development of the fuel deposits of Tyumenskaya Oblast. [applause]

Once again, once again, dear Leonid Ilich, thank you for the good words and words of farewell addressed to the Uzbek people and all working people [passage indistinct].

TU CONGRESS MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV, CPSU

PM260805 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

On behalf of the Soviet trade unions and all the working people of our multinational motherland, the 17th Congress of USSR Trade Unions sends warm greetings to their Communist Party, the Leninist Central Committee and its Politburo, headed by that true continuer of Lenin's great cause, outstanding politician and statesman of today and indefatigable fighter for peace and the working people's happiness, Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

Our congress has once again shown that the Soviet trade unions are the party's reliable bulwark among the masses and that in the conditions of the developed socialist society they play an ever-increasing role as a school of administration, a school of management and a school of communism.

The congress has convincingly demonstrated the close cohesion of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the labor intelligentsia and all nations and ethnic groups of the Soviet Union around Lenin's party and their unshakable determination to consistently implement its policy, which expresses the people's vital interests.

Our country's working people received the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress as their own vital cause. They are working selflessly to implement them and fulfill the plans of the 11th 5-Year Plan and are striving to mark the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation with new successes in all sectors of economic and cultural building.

The congress delegates, like all Soviet people, gained a new influx of strength and energy from the CPSU Central Committee's message of greetings and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's brilliant, inspiring speech, which was permeated with concern for Soviet people's well-being and happiness and for preserving and consolidating world peace.

The Central Committee's instructions and your own wise advice and good wishes, Leonid Ilich, give great new impetus to trade union work. The Soviet trade unions regard them as a combat program and will base all their activity on them.

Each of us is clearly aware that a steady improvement in the working people's living standard is only possible on the basis of a further all-around upsurge in social production. And we will strive still more persistently to consistently implement the party's economic strategy. The Soviet trade unions will make every effort to ensure the transfer of our economy onto a footing of intensive development and to make it really economical. They will increase their contribution to the development of the country's fuel and energy base, to stepping up metal production and to improving capital construction and the operation of transport and other sectors of key significance for the country's national economy.

We will join in work to develop the agroindustrial complex and in the struggle to increase the output of agricultural products even more actively. We assure the party, the Central Committee and you personally, Leonid Ilich, that the Soviet trade unions will spare no effort of labor and will make a worthy contribution to resolving the food problem.

For the sake of the attainment of the goals of the party's socioeconomic policy, we will continue to develop and improve mass socialist competition and the movement for a communist attitude toward labor and will constantly channel the competitors' efforts into resolving vital tasks to increase the efficiency of social production -- improving productivity and work quality, speeding up scientific and technical progress; ensuring the careful, thrifty utilization of material, natural and manpower resources; and saving fuel, energy, metal and raw materials.

We will make every effort to disseminate leading experience and introduce it still more widely, develop the inventors' and rationalizers' movement everywhere, strengthen labor and production discipline and actively promote the improvement of forms of labor organization. Following your instructions, Leonid Ilich, we will do everything necessary to further develop and strengthen the progressive team form of labor organization and incentive, so as to ensure that every team really becomes a true school for the development of management habits among workers and an experimental laboratory for creative initiative.

We are well aware that the development of production will proceed more successfully as Soviet people's working and living conditions improve. Proceeding on this assumption, the trade unions will devote greater attention to questions of norm setting and labor protection, safety techniques and the observance of labor legislation. They will firmly watch over the working people's legitimate rights and interests, treat any deviations from legal norms implacably and wage a resolute, uncompromising struggle against any manifestations of bureaucracy, callousness and red tape.

The Soviet trade unions will participate in the most active, direct way in the implementation of the social program outlined by the party. We will display still more concern for safeguarding working people's health and improving sanatorium and resort treatment and leisure, pension provisions and people's housing conditions. We will persistently seek improvements in the work of enterprises in trade, public catering and consumer services and will establish effective workers' control over them.

Our trade unions see it as their most important duty to ensure that all educational work is aimed at doing the utmost possible to promote the growth of Soviet people's political, social and labor activeness and to mold the best qualities of a builder of communism in each of them. We will indefatigably develop the working people's class consciousness and educate them in the spirit of the fraternal friendship of the USSR's peoples, Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism and the readiness to defend the motherland. We will display constant concern for creating a sound sociopsychological and moral climate and an atmosphere in which people's capabilities, initiative and creative potential can be revealed as fully as possible in every labor collective.

Our trade unions, making wide use of the rights granted by the USSR Constitution and Soviet legislation, will involve working people still more actively in the management of production and of state and public affairs. To this end we will continue to increase the role and significance of workers' meetings, standing production conferences and other forms of socialist democracy and step up collaboration with the soviets of peoples deputies, the Komsomol and people's control organs.

We will draw concrete, practical conclusions from your instructions, Leonid Ilich, on the need to more rapidly restructure the work of trade union organizations in relation to today's demands and on the further strengthening of trade union organs' ties with the masses. We will tirelessly improve the style and methods of trade union organizations' activity and strive to ensure that trade union workers and activists are constantly among the people, respond energetically to their aspirations and act as true organizers of the masses.

The USSR's trade unions regard it as their first duty to do everything to promote the consistent implementation of the peace-loving foreign policy course of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and to actively fight to implement the peace program for the eighties elaborated by the 26th congress. In the name of averting the threat of war and curbing the arms race and for the sake of working people's happiness, we will continue to tirelessly strengthen our unity of action with the trade unions and workers movements in all countries, to march in the front ranks of the fighters against imperialism and to bear the banner of proletarian class solidarity aloft.

The trade union congress wholly approves and warmly supports the new peace initiatives put forward in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech, which express our common will to defend peace, on behalf of all our country's working people.

We are deeply grateful to the CPSU Central Committee, its Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally for their tireless, fruitful activity in the noble field of the struggle for peace and international security.

The congress warmly and cordially congratulates Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on the award of the WFTU gold medal on behalf of the Soviet trade unions and all Soviet people. We wish you, dear Leonid Ilich, good health and further fruitful work for the sake of the Soviet people's happiness and for the sake of peace and social progress for all mankind.

We assure our dear party that the Soviet trade unions will always remain true to communist ideals and will follow Lenin's course steadily, together with the party.

Glory to the great Soviet people -- the builders of communism and courageous fighters for peace and happiness for all working people in the world!

Under the great Lenin's banner, under the Communist Party's leadership -- forward to the victory of communism!

[Signed] The 17th Congress of USSR Trade Unions

TRUD REPORTS ON TRADE UNION CONGRESS ACTIVITIES

Shalayev Closing Speech

PM260939 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Comrade S.A. Shalayev's Concluding Speech at the Closure of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress"]

[Text] Comrade delegates!

Esteemed foreign guests!

The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress is completing its work.

The congress has proved an important sociopolitical event in the country's life and attracted extensive attention abroad.

The congress of the USSR trade unions, which represent 130 million workers, kolkhoz members and employees and is the most mass-based organization of Soviet working people, has made a thorough analysis of what has been achieved and, proceeding from the 26th party congress decisions, has defined the program for their further organizational and educational work and forms of direct, active participation in the implementation of the imposing plans outlined by the party for the country's economic and social development.

Throughout these days we congress delegates and guests have been deeply moved and inspired by our direct involvement in a major political event in the life of the Soviet trade unions, in the life of our whole country and in international life.

The speech delivered at our congress by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was such an event.

The congress' entire work took place under the enormous impact of the new, very important tasks set the Soviet trade unions.

I should like once more, like all the comrades who spoke at the congress, to note the exceptional paternal concern voiced by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev for the working people and our trade unions, the depth and wisdom of his advice and the good will and warmth with which this advice was given.

For all this we are wholeheartedly grateful to dear Leonid Ilich, and from this hall we again address feelings of the most profound respect and gratitude to him on behalf of all our country's working people.

Allow me, comrades, to assure the CPSU Central Committee and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally on behalf of our congress and the multimillion-strong army of trade union members that, in turning the party's instructions into practical deeds, every trade union organization will act as specifically and efficiently as possible, will seek the successful solution of fundamental questions of economic development and will combine concern to increase social production with concern for each working person's working and daily living conditions, the protection of his rights and the improvement of his welfare and future even more firmly in the practice of its work.

The party points out that the trade unions' most important occupation is to form an active life stance, selfless devotion to the cause of the party and to communist ideals, Soviet patriotism and readiness to defend their motherland in working people.

Allow me, comrades, to assure the CPSU Central Committee on your behalf that the Soviet trade unions will not spare their efforts or labor to fulfill worthily this honorable assignment.

In his speech at the congress Leonid Ilich Brezhnev gave high marks to the Soviet trade unions' international activity and wished us and our foreign guests further successes in this great struggle, which is so important to many millions of working people, on behalf of the party and people.

We are deeply moved by and proud of the historical fact that it was precisely from the rostrum of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress that Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev made his exceptionally important proposals aimed at averting the threat of thermonuclear war and strengthening peace and the peoples' security.

Allow me, comrades, to assure the CPSU, its Leninist Central Committee and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, that tireless fighter for peace, on behalf of our congress, that the Soviet trade unions will continue to bear the banner of proletarian internationalism, aloft, develop and strengthen their fraternal ties with the working people of all continents and strengthen the international trade union movement's unity and cohesion in the struggle to curb the arms race and preserve world peace.

With profound satisfaction we note that the Soviet Union's consistent and principled foreign policy course, set forth again in Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech, the USSR's determination to achieve an easing of international tension and reduce the threat of war and the new peace initiatives that have been advanced were warmly supported by the foreign guests, envoys of the working class from many countries of the world, who spoke at our congress.

Allow me, comrade delegates, to cordially thank them for this, for the feelings of fraternal friendship they expressed for the USSR working people and trade unions and for taking part in our congress' work.

In his speech at the congress Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said the party, state and trade unions of our country fulfill their roles working harmoniously and in coordination. This coordination, this unity is a guarantee of successes for the cause of communism, and no one can shake this unity!"

Allow me, dear comrades, to repeat these words, which we hold sacred, on behalf of the 17th Soviet Trade Union Congress and the entire multi million-strong army of soviet trade unions: "No one can shake this unity!"

Comrade delegates, in a few days we will return to our labor collectives and our daily business. But the lofty mandate of delegate to the Soviet Trade Union Congress will not have spent its force. Its term is not limited to the period of the congress' work. This mandate obliges each of us to fulfill the honorable and crucial task of taking the congress' decisions back to all trade union organizations, to all our work comrades, and urgently setting about their practical implementation and specific practical deeds, for, as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said so succinctly and so very clearly, "we have no time for wavering. We must work and do what has to be done."

Allow me to express the firm conviction that the congress' delegates will be in the front ranks of the advancing army of labor in fulfilling the historic 26th CPSU Congress decisions and in building communism in our country.

Allow me to wholeheartedly wish you all new successes in work for the benefit of our great Soviet motherland, good health and happiness.

Comrades, with that allow me to declare the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress closed. (Comrade S.A. Shalayev's speech was frequently interrupted by applause).

Bulgarian Delegate's Speech

PM251159 Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 7

[Unattributed report on speech by Petur Dyulgerov, chairman of the Bulgarian Central Council of Trade Unions, at 16 March session of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress in Moscow]

[Text] We have assembled here for a major event in the life of Soviet society and the international trade union movement -- the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress. The congress rostrum gives us a happy opportunity to address words of fraternal love and profound recognition to all the Soviet land's working people, to the people who are creating leading models of socialist and communist practice.

We listened with great attention to Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's wonderful speech, which provides an answer to the most urgent problems of the modern world, outlines Soviet society's new aims and sets the trade unions new tasks in communist building. I am profoundly convinced that the speech will be of tremendous significance for the entire international trade union movement, which has more need than ever of unity and a precise class perspective in the struggle for peace and for a better future.

In just a few days, the speaker continued, the Ninth Bulgarian Trade Union Congress will be held. At it we will define our tasks in taking part in the implementation of the 12th BCP Congress decisions. We are greeting our congress with great new achievements. Of course, there have been both difficulties and shortcomings on the path we have traveled, but we have successfully fulfilled our plans. Another great step forward has been taken. The life of Bulgaria's working people has become better.

The Bulgarian trade unions are setting themselves still higher targets. The main thing in our work is to help to further increase working people's activeness and the fruitfulness of their creativity with a view to implementing the party's course of intensification everywhere, of introducing new economic management methods and of more fully satisfying the people's material, spiritual and social needs. We bear special responsibility for the development of socialist democracy and the broad involvement of working people in the management of production and the country.

Address by Hungary's Gaspar

PM251157 Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 Mar 82 p 7

[Unattributed report on speech by Sandor Gaspar, secretary general of the Hungarian National Trade Union Council, at 16 March session of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress in Moscow]

[Text] After conveying fraternal greetings and good wishes from the Hungarian Trade Union movement and the millions of Hungarian working people to the 17th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions, the speaker wished the congress delegates successful, fruitful work. The Hungarian working people, he said, respectfully and gratefully greet the trade union movement of the world's biggest socialist state. We all know what a tremendous contribution from the trade unions lies behind the Soviet Union's achievements today.

The development of the USSR so far is the best possible demonstration of how the creative strength of the working people, the strength that in a short historical period has created one of the mightiest economic and military powers, manifests itself under the conditions of working class power. The Soviet Union is the only power capable of pitting the requisite scientific and technical and material potential against world imperialism's adventurist plans.

The history of the USSR shows more cogently than anything that the workers' power is guided in all its actions by proletarian internationalism, even when sacrifices have to be made for this. The significance of the support that the Soviet Union extends throughout the world to forces of progress, peoples fighting for their liberation and working people defending their rights is inestimable.

The Soviet Union uses its prestige and might in the name of preserving world peace, halting the arms race and relaxing international tension. The world's working people make a high assessment of the consistent, principled policy aimed not at confrontation but at strengthening the spirit of negotiation, cooperation and mutual trust.

What is needed for a solution of the global problems of our time, the speaker went on to note, is closer cohesion on the part of the workers, trade union movement and all forces serving mankind's progress. The future belongs to the world working class, to the peoples. Our planet's working class has made many sacrifices through the centuries for the sake of that future.

Lao Delegate's Speech

PM251609 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered at 17th USSR Trade Union Congress 18 March evening session by (Sanan Sutkhichak), chairman of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions, under general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Our delegation, the speaker said, is under the tremendous impression made by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech on the day the congress opened. In his speech he noted the Soviet trade unions' great successes and gave a high assessment of their activity. We believe that the provisions contained in his speech are of significance not only for Soviet trade unions but also for all the world's progressive trade unions.

We wholly and fully support the constructive new proposals to safeguard peace put forward from this rostrum by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev.

The AUCCTU report to the congress, the speaker continued, graphically revealed the enormous part played by the Soviet trade unions in the further development of socialism and the creation of the material and technical base of communism in the Soviet Union. In our opinion, their role is truly great both in the country's domestic life and in the international arena.

It was with great joy, the speaker said, that we welcomed the award of the WFTU gold medal to Comrade L.I. Brezhnev for his contribution to the consolidation of peace. We assess it as a recognition of the services of the Soviet Union and of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally in defending world peace and security.

The speaker then described how the country's trade unions have strengthened and matured under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

The Lao trade unions, he concluded, have ties with trade unions of various countries. We have formed particularly close relations with the trade unions of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries. Their material and moral aid and their support promote the constant development of the trade unions in Laos and the growth of their prestige in the international arena. We take this opportunity to express on behalf of the trade unions and all working people heartfelt thanks to the trade unions of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries.

Meeting At Press Center

PM251037 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[R. Kokchanov report: "The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress Press Center"]

[Text] A meeting yesterday between journalists and guests of the trade union forum representing Angolan and Palestinian trade unions was devoted to the theme of the peoples' struggle for freedom, independence and political, social and economic emancipation.

The 17th congress has not yet finished, but the impressions of its work are most favorable, Pascoal Luvualu, secretary general of the national association of Angolan working people, stated. There is a frank, businesslike discussion of all problems in progress. The speech of L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is of exceptional significance. Implementation of the peace initiatives put forward by him would guarantee peace for all the peoples.

P. Luvualu described the trade union movement in Angola and noted its contribution to the country's winning of independence. The trade unions are now participating actively in developing Angola's economy and in implementing social and economic programs. After liberation, he said, we chose the path of supporting the African peoples in the struggle for independence. For this reason the whole might of the South African military machine came down on us.

Answering jounalists' questions, P. Luvualu expressed gratitude to the USSR's working people for their fraternal help and support and described the use made of Soviet trade unions' experience.

We listened to L.I. Brezhnev's speech very attentively, Fahmi al-Hindi, secretary of the federation of Palestinian trade unions, said. It showed once more the tremendous attention paid to working people in a socialist society and familiarized us with the crucial tasks which Soviet trade unions are now resolving.

We fully share L.I. Brezhnev's assessment of the present international situation and the sharp worsening of it, for which the forces of imperialism, primarily the United States, are to blame. Palestinian working people oppose the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and the production of neutron weapons. We consider it necessary to strengthen the united front in the struggle to avert a nuclear holocaust.

Fahmi al-Hindi angrily branded U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Poland, Afghanistan and Latin American states. Why did the U.S. administration not apply sanctions against Israel, he said, when the Zionists expelled the Arab people of Palestine? Why are they not being applied now that Tel Aviv is committing monstrous crimes in the Near East? Just because the Israeli extremists are pursuing a policy that suits Washington.

But we are convinced of ultimate victory since we rely on the help of our friends, primarily the Soviet Union and other socialist states. The Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions secretary described cooperation with Soviet trade unions and the Palestinian Arab people's difficult life of combat.

Yesterday's session at the press center on Zubovskiy Boulevard closed with a speech by AUCCTU Secretary I.I. Gladkiy. He familiarized foreign and Soviet journalists with Soviet trade unions' work on implementing the socioeconomic tasks put forward by the 26th CPSU Congress. Speaking about the rise in our people's living standards, the AUCCTU secretary remarked that over the year real per capita incomes had risen by 3.3 percent. Average monthly wages for workers and employees were R172.5. Kolkhoz members' wages rose by 4 percent and nearly 10 million people improved their housing conditions.

I.I. Gladkiy characterized in detail Soviet trade unions' dual task of concern for developing the national economy and production and concern for working people's rights and interests and working and everyday conditions.

Answering a question on Soviet trade unions' attitude to the ILO, the AUCCTU secretary said that Soviet trade unions are working actively within the ILO. We see the main task of this work in establishing international labor norms which may help working people in the capitalist and developing countries in the struggle for their rights and for the resolution of acute social and economic problems.

The ILO is meant to promote the improvement of working people's situation. However, the forces of international reaction never stop their attempts to divert that organization from resolving urgent problems or using it for slanderous attacks against the socialist countries and their trade unions.

The Soviet trade unions, participating in the ILO's activity, are striving to make the questions worrying working people throughout the world such as the struggle against unemployment and inflation and for disarmament and peace, the main questions in the ILO's activity.

Chakovskiy's Address

PM251645 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report of speech at 18 March morning session of 17th USSR Trade Union Congress by Hero of Socialist Labor A.B. Chakovskiy, chief editor of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA]

[Text] The speaker said that Soviet writers unanimously subscribe to the congratulations of the whole Soviet people and the whole world's working people to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in connection with the WFTU's high award. Later Comrade Chakovskiy broached the theme of the struggle for peace. He stressed that the entire activity of our party's Central Committee and the Soviet Government and the entire labor of our illustrious working class, kolkhoz peasantry and intelligentsia are a major contribution to the cause of peace. If dark clouds are preparing to cover the sun, and there can be no life without sun, one cannot accept that. It is not now simply a matter of clouds or natural disaster threatening our peaceful labor but 2,500 military installations of the enemies of peace and socialism encircling our country. Aren't there missiles trained on us located practically from the North Pole to Japan and from Alaska to the Mediterranean? Can one forget about NATO's so-called "Rapid Deployment" forces and the "sharks" -- submarines and ships -- that wield nuclear weapons? Such figures as trillions were formerly used only by astronomers studying distances between stars and galaxies, but now these trillions are rattled off by Pentagon computers adding up the totals for planned U.S. military spending.

Having dealt in detail with the contemporary international situation, Comrade Chakovskiy described Soviet writers' multifaceted activity. All recent party congresses rated our artistic literature highly, the speaker noted, although certain shortcomings were pointed out in it. Living the people's interests, sharing joys and sorrows with them and confirming the truth of life -- we shall remember and never forget this appeal addressed to our literature!

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's remarkable books Malaya Zemlya, Virgin Lands, Rebirth and Reminiscences are a fine example of such literature. There are working people in the works of our writers such as G. Markov, V. Kozhevnikov and Yu. Bondarev. I would remind you of the names of authors whose main theme is that of work -- G. Bokarev, A. Gelman, A. Pletnev and V. Bubnis. Soviet classics have handed down to modern literature the tradition of the profound and fair embodiment of the model of working people. The heroes of the best works of our time are the pride of Soviet literature; they are people with an active life stance and clear social thinking, people who affirm communism's truth.

Writers who create works about working people must always bear in mind the historic mission placed by time and the age on the shoulders of the working class and must correlate their writings with the scale of Soviet workers' vast achievements. It is only on this path that genuine artistic and social discoveries can be expected, and the neglect of this by some writers inevitably dooms them to aimless wandering in the undergrowth of petty themes.

In conclusion, comrade Chakovskiy assured Lenin's party and trade union congress' delegates that the Soviet land's writers were and will remain in a single system with the workers in the great struggle for the triumph of communist ideals on behalf of Soviet writers.

Delegates on Local Conditions

PM251117 [Editorial Report] Moscow TRUD in Russian on 20 March publishes on page 2 abridged versions of speeches delivered by Soviet delegates to the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress in Moscow.

In particular, TRUD publishes a 500-word version of the speech delivered by the 18 March evening session of the congress by G.P. Sorokina, chairman of the Local Industry and Municipal and Consumer Enterprise Workers Trade Union Central Committee; and a 500-word version of the speech delivered at the 19 March morning session by hero of Socialist Labor Yu. V. Sedov, lathe operator at the Penzmash plant and voluntary secretary of the Penzenskaya Oblast Trade Union Council.

In her speech Sorokina outlines successes achieved by the workers she represents, notes that locating consumer service enterprises close to production facilities is more convenient for workers and helps to reduce manpower turnover, and continues:

"Our main concern is to improvement the standard and quality of services. Unfortunately, there are still instances of violation of service rules and of rudeness. The trade union committees see their task in instilling in every worker and employee love and respect for his profession, conscientiousness and attentiveness to clients. It is planned to make more extensive use for this purpose of the potential of trade union groups, workers and employees' meetings and standing enterprises' work regime, the observance of price discipline, and the standard of services to the population."

Finally, Sorokina notes the need to improve material and technical supplies to local industry and municipal services and to improve territorial and sectorial planning of capital investments in housing construction in the sectors covered by her trade union.

Describing the tasks facing his plant in the 11th 5-Year Plan, Sedov discusses how socialist competition can be improved and goes on:

"Every time you visit the labor collectives you sense people's desire to work even better. But you also hear comments from workers about improving management and trade union committee activity, standing production conferences and All-Union Inventors and Rationalizers and Scientific Labor Organization Society work. I was recently assigned the task of looking into the organization of socialist competition at the Penzdizelmash Association. In compiling individual plans there they reckon in the old way, on the basis of past achievement. There is no division by professional groups, and cadre workers -- through no wish of their own -- are frequently among the laggards. The Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building sent recommendations for the organization of competition but forgot to check out how they were being introduced. Nor is there any proper control from the Heavy Machine Building Workers Trade Union Central Committee.

19 Mar Proceedings

PM251147 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 1

[Unattributed "Information report" on 19 March 17th USSR Trade Unions Congress proceedings]

[Text] The 17the USSR Trade Unions Congress continued its work yesterday, 19 March, in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow.

The congress discussed the AUCCTU and Central Auditing Commission reports.

Those assembled in the Palace of Congresses greeted Comrades P.N. Demichev, V.V. Kuznetsov, I.V. Kapitonov, V.I. Dolgikh and M.V. Zimyanin with applause.

The morning session was addressed by Comrades I.A. Lanshin, chairman of the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee; A.K. Zitmanis, chairman of the Latvian Republic Trade Unions Council; Hero of Socialist Labor Yu. V. Sedov, lather operator at the Penzmashplant and voluntary secretary of the Penzenskaya Oblast Trade Unions Council; G.I. Yeremey, chairman of the Modavian Republic Trade Unions Council; Hero of Socialist Labor T.P. Prokhorova, teacher at the Novo-Petrovskaya No 1 Secondary School, Moskovskaya Oblast; Hero of Socialist Labor A. Yu, Ishlinskiy, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Problems of Mechanics and Chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies; L.V. Radyukevich, director of the Magnitogrosk V.I. Lenin Metallurgical Combine; E. Abakirov, chairman of the Kirgis Republic Trade Unions Council; and E. A. Korovin, chairman of the Sverdlovskaya Oblast Trade Unions Council.

The congress was greeted by Comrades Abdul Sattar Pordeli chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan; Pascoal Luvualu, general secretary of the National Association of Angolan Working People; Pertti Viinanen, chairman of the Central Organization of Trade Unions of Finland; Carlos Sanchez, secretary of the El Salvador Unitary Trade Union Federation; (Yokhannes Mkvanazi), member of the Southwest African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) Workers Committee; (Andreas Ziartidis), general secretary of the All-Cyprus Labor Confederation (PEO); Hermann Benavides Carrillo, representative of the Nicaraguan trade union organizations; Sultan ad-Dush, general secretary of the PDRY General Confederation of Workers Trade Unions; Takehiro (Ebitani), representative of the General Council of Japanese Trade Unions (SOHIO); Fahmi al-Hindi, deputy general secretary of the Palestinian Trade Unions Federation; Isidora (Gamarra), chairman of the General Confederation of Working People of Peru; and (Kheng Teav), vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kampuchea, who were warmly welcomed by the delegates and guests. The congress was also greeted by Jose (Agiryano), ILO department director.

During the congress the work of the following sections was organized: the section for socialist competiton and the enhancement of the working peoples' creative activeness; the section for the trade unions' economic work; the section for improving labor conditions and labor safety; the section for state social insurance, the safeguarding of working people's health and the organization of their leisure; the section for the trade union's educational and mass cultural work; and the section for social and consumer and housing services for working people.

AUCCTU Secretary Comrade A.P. Biryukova delivered a report on the results of the sections' work at the evening session.

The congress adopted a resolution that the AUCCTU be recommended to make use of the proposals elaborated by the sections of the 17th USSR Trade Unions Congress in its practical work.

The congress continued its discussion of the AUCCTU and Central Auditing Commission reports.

Comrades L.G. Saakyan, chairman of the Armenian Republic Trade Unions Congress; P.L. Kovalev, chairman of the Permskaya Oblast Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Workers Trade Union Committee; Hero of Socialist Labor A.D. Polishchuk, leader of a team of working face mining workers at the Donetskugol Production Association's Trudovskaya mine; A. Khaydarov, chairman of the Tadzhik Republic Trade Unions Council; and V.T. Sedenko, chairman of the Central Committee of the Oil and Gas Industry Workers Trade Union, spoke in the debates.

The congress was greeted by Comrades (Mulugeta Yimer), chairman of the All-Ethiopian Trade Union; (Seku Magassuba), general secretary of the National Confederation of Working People of Guinea; (Orestis Khadzhivasiliu), chairman of the General Confederation of Labor of Greece; Ken Gill, member of the British Trades Union Congress General Council and general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section; and (Khassan Adebayo Sunmonu), chairman of the Nigerian Congress of Labor.

With that the evening session ended. The congress continues its work today.

New AUCCTU Presidium

PM251635 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report:" "AUCCTU Plenum"]

[Text] The first plenum of the AUCCTU elected by the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress was held yesterday, 20 March.

The plenum unanimously elected an AUCCTU presidium consisting of the following:

Comrade S.A. Shalayev was elected AUCCTU chairman.

Comrade V.I. Prokhorov was elected AUCCTU deputy chairman.

Comrades A.P. Biryukova, V.F. Bogatikov, A.V. Viktorov, I.I. Gladkiy, L.A. Zemlyannikova, S.V. Kozlov, K.Yu. Matskyavichyus, V.P. Provotorov, A.N. Subbotin and A.R. Ushakov were elected AUCCTU secretaries.

Comrades B.S. Andreyev, S.N. Zaichenko, V.T. Ivanov, A.Yu. Ishlinskiy, N.I. Kovalev, L.P. Kravchenko, I.I. Kostyukov, I.A. Lanshin, V.I. Lapshin, N.M. Makhmudova, T.I. Mosashvili, L.V. Petrov, N.N. Polozov, A.I. Petrovicheva, V.N. Pletneva, B.S. Parfenov, I.Ya. Prokofyev, A.Ya. Rybakov, R.I. Sekacheva, V.A. Sologub, G.P. Sorokina, K.T. Turysov, D.N. Filippov, A.P. Shelyagina, and I.F. Shkuratov were elected members of the AUCCTU Presidium.

A session of the Central Auditing Commission was also held. Comrade L.A. Kubyak was elected chairman of the commission.

EDITORIALS ON DUTIES, ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

PRAVDA on Duties

PM241225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress has ended in Moscow. The representatives of our largest public organization, in whose ranks 130 million working people from every nation and every nationality in the land of the soviets are now united, thoroughly and comprehensively examined the results of the work done in the period under review, analyzed the experience amassed and laid down specific tasks for the next 5 years.

The congress' work, the reports and speeches of those participating, and the unanimously adopted resolution and other documents graphically and deeply reflected the work intensity and creative activeness with which the Soviet people are implementing the 26th CPSU Congress outlines and are striving to greet in a fitting manner that momentous date -- the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation.

The close cohesion of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and labor intelligentsia around Lenin's party and their determination to consistently pursue its policy, which expresses the people's vital interests, was convincingly demonstrated. The congress showed with renewed force that Soviet trade unions are a reliable party support among the masses. In the context of a mature socialist society they have an increasing role to play as schools of administration, management and communism.

The atmosphere of the congress, the creative spirit of collective endeavor and the businesslike and self-critical mood of the discussion was largely determined by the CPSU Central Committee's salutation and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's lively and inspiring speech. The congress delegates saw the exhortation to more rapidly and vigorously reorganize the work of trade union organizations in line with modern requirements, deal more boldly with new economic and social problems, draw more extensively on scientific data, and constantly improve the aktiv's skills as a militant action program.

"Competence, a keen sense of the new, close rapport with the masses, consideration for others, and knowing what makes people tick," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pointed out from the congress rostrum, "should be the distinguishing features of the modern trade union worker."

The most urgent task facing trade unions in the current 5-year plan period is to get across to every working person the demands of the party's economic policy and to enable him to relate to and understand them, and to show convincingly that it is this policy which serves his vital interests and that it is our common duty to promote its complete success. Every effort must be made to transfer our economy to a course of intensive development and to make it genuinely economical.

The congress clearly defined the main points where trade unions must direct their efforts and energies on the economic front. They include further developing the country' fuel and energy base, increasing metal production, improving capital construction and the operation of transport and other key sectors of the national economy, and persistently improving the management and administrative machinery. Under modern conditions the agroindustrial complex's successful development and the food program's implementation have an enormous role to play. The main thing now is to organize work in every specific sphere as well and efficiently as possible and always strive to increase productivity and work standards and to ensure strictly economical use of material and manpower.

Here it is very important that when turning party directives into practical deeds every trade union and trade union organization does so in as concrete and businesslike a manner as possible. The country is now in the second year of the 5-year plan period and, as was said from the congress rostrum, we have no time for slouching.

The key to success is to be persistent in assimilating progressive experience and the achievement of scientific and technical progress, develop and deepen socialist competition, tighten up labor and production discipline, and extensively introduce team forms of labor organization and stimulation. Every team must become a genuine school of collectivism and creativity and of productive and high-quality work, a school for developing in workers administrative skills and labor and moral tempering.

The trade unions' attention must constantly be focused on implementing the social program outlined by the party, seeing that the working people's health is safeguarded and improving their living conditions. The allocation of accomodation and the organization of trade, public catering, health care and the whole service sphere must be effectively monitored.

It is the trade unions' duty to staunchly defend the working person's legitimate interests, always create an atmosphere precluding even the possibility of his rights being violated, firmly put a stop to manifestations and bureaucracy, insensitivity and ostentation, and to show no quarter to botchers, drunkards and those who steal public property. It is also important to continue to increase the role and importance of workers meetings, standing production conferences and other forms of socialist democracy, and to increase cooperation between trade unions and soviets, the Komsomol and people's control organs.

There is still much to be done to improve trade union organs' work style and methods. Their workers and activists must constantly be amid the masses, be alive to people's needs, serve as an example of the unity of word and deed, and be genuine organizers of militant action.

The trade unions' first duty is still to foster in every working person the finest qualities of the Soviet man, the builder of communism. They must develop class consciousness in people and mold the lofty sentiments of Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism and readiness to defend their socialist motherland.

On behalf of all our country's working people, the Soviet trade union congress approved in full and warmly endorsed the new peace initiatives put forward in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech.

In the name of averting the threat of war and promoting working people's happiness, trade unions in the land of the soviets will continue to strengthen unity of action with trade union and workers movements in all countries and carry aloft the banner of proletarian class solidarity.

Together with the party and under its proven leadership, Soviet trade unions are confidently pursuing Lenin's course along the road of communist creation.

IZVESTIYA on Role

PM241243 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 82 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Trade Unions Are a School of Communism"]

[Text] The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress which has opened in Moscow is a major event in the country's political life. This high forum is attended by the emissaries of those on whose labor our motherland's greatness and might are based. The profound vivid speech at the congress by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is of paramount significance for the congress' work and for all the subsequent activity of Soviet trade unions. The speech rated highly the activity of Soviet trade unions, defined for them the important tasks in the 11th 5-Year Plan and put forward constructive new peace initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race and averting the threat of nuclear war.

"Now that the trade union movement has embraced the countryside and the kolkhozes, in addition to the cities," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed, "trade unions have became a working people's organization which is unique in terms of both its size -- 130 million! -- and its qualitative characteristics.

"On the ideological plane, this reemphasizes that the world outlook of the working class, which has always been the backbone of the trade union movement, defines the ideological stance of all classes and social groups of Soviet society. On the political plane, this means that the foundations of Soviet power and of our nationwide state have become firmer and steadier. On the social plane, this is evidence that the erasing of the boundaries between the city and the countryside and the coming together of physical and mental labor are continuing. The participation in the trade union movement of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the working intelligentsia is an important indicator of the Soviet people's growing unity and of developed socialist society's comprehensive progress."

V.I. Lenin spoke of the trade unions as a school of administration, of management and of communism. This accurate and meaningful phrase expresses the deep essence of the concept of the trade union movement under the conditions of socialism.

Trade unions occupy an important place in socialist society's political system. They are a powerful means for developing democracy and involving working people in building communism, and play a great and irreplaceable role in resolving the multifaceted tasks of our times. During the years of Soviet power, several generations of working people have passed through the trade unions as a school of communism. There has been an accumulation of valuable experience of increasing their creative activity, combining in trade union practice a concern for increasing social production with a concern for the working and everyday conditions of every working person, protecting his rights and increasing his prosperity.

The arsenal of methods by which trade unions can influence social processes, economic development and the education of the masses is great and varied. This arsenal must be used more efficiently. The task is to reshape the trade union organizations' work more quickly and energetically in relations to present day requirements. Trade unions must work more boldly on new economic and social problems, rely more broadly on scientific data and continuously improve the skill and competence of their aktivs. The modern trade unionist must be distinguished by a very close link with the masses, a regard for people and a knowledge of the human soul.

Each stage of our development puts forward tasks and requires new approaches to solving them. Hence the urgent task is to approach every working person, to make the requirements of party economic policy close and comprehensible to him, to show convincingly that this policy meets his vital interests and that it is thus everyone's duty to promote its full success by their initiative and creative search. Such is the trade unions' most urgent task in the 5-year plan.

Grasping the 26th Congress decisions as their own sacred cause, the Soviet people go forth with a firm confidence in their strength and a clear understanding of both the complexity and the magnitude of the tasks to be resolved. This defines the country's clear labor rhythm and ensures the conscientious work of urban and rural workers. It is now necessary to extend the whole front and launch a common offensive following the thousands of advanced workers and advanced enterprises who have reconnoitered in force and seized important bridgeheads. And the trade unions' place is in the front ranks of the attacking army of labor.

Concern for improving working people's lives is indissolubly linked with concern for developing the economy. It is impossible to ensure an increase in prosperity with the necessary development of production. At the same time, the better working and everyday conditions are, the more successfully the development of production itself will proceed. This is an axiom of the socialist way of life. And the more mature our society becomes, the greater the attention paid to working people's everyday needs -- housing, catering, the services spheres, health care and education -- in a word, to everything that determines people's prosperity and feelings.

Yes, truly Soviet trade unions are a school of administration, a school of management and a school of communism. The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress is showing clearly and convincingly that millions and millions of urban and rural workers are passing through it successfully.

Trade union committees must cooperate more actively with organs of Soviet power in all questions affecting people's vital interests. In turn, soviets and their ispolkoms cannot work efficiently without cooperating with trade unions. Cooperation between them must be strengthened at all levels, including the highest levels.

"It is very important," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in his speech at the 17th Trade Union Congress, "for every trade union and trade union organization, embodying party guidelines in practical deeds, to work with the utmost specificity and efficiency. We have no time to get ourselves moving. We must work. We must get things done."

We must work. We must get things done! That is the battle cry of the day, the enthusiasm of every working day of the 5-year plan.

DEATH OF ACADEMICIAN SIDORENKO REPORTED

LD251600 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Soviet science has incurred a great loss. Aleksandr Vasilyevich Sidorenko, outstanding Soviet scientist and organizer of science, member of the CPSU, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, director of the Institute of the Lithosphere of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Lenin prize laureat has died in the 65th year of his life as the result of a automobile accident.

His obituary, signed by the leaders of the CPSU, stresses the great contribution of Aleksandr Vasilyevich Sidorenko to the expansion of the mineral raw material base, the preparation for the industrial assimilation of oil, gas and ore deposits, the resolution of problems on conserving the natural environment and also the research of Earth from space. The obituary reads: A clear memory of Aleksandr Vasilyevich Sidorenko will be held in our hearts for always.

TASS on Obituary

LD251646 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar TASS -- Aleksandr Sidorenko, vice chairman of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, died on March 23 in a car crash at the age of 64.

An obituary, published here and signed by Leonid Brezhnev, Nikolay Tikhonov and other Soviet leaders, as well as prominent scientists, emphasizes that "Soviet science has suffered a great loss." It describes Aleksandr Sidorenko as "an outstanding Soviet scientist and organiser of science", saying that "our hearts will forever retain the respectful memory of Aleksandr Sidorenko, loyal son of the party, who gave the whole of his life to the cause of communist construction."

The obituary says that Sidorenko was Soviet minister of geology for many years and took an active part in the work to consolidate the mineral and raw material foundation of the Soviet economy, prospect for oil, gas and ore deposits in different parts of the country and prepare them for commercial exploitation.

He was elected member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a number of foreign academies of sciences and scientific societies for the major advances in geological science he accomplished.

In 1975, Aleksandr Sidorenko was elected vice-chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The obituary says that when working in this post he paid much attention to developing science and enhancing its links with production and made a big contribution to the study of the early stages of the Earth's evolution, the solution of environmental protection problems and the investigation of the Earth by space-based means.

ZHUKOV ELECTED SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LD261126 Moscow TASS in English 1015 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- At today's plenary session the Soviet peace committee elected a new chairman -- Georgiy Zhukov, political news analyst of the newspaper PRAVDA.

A prominent Soviet publicist and public figure, Hero of Socialist Labour Georgiy Zhukov is a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of one of chambers of Soviet parliament, a member of the committee of the parliamentary group of the USSR. He is a member of the World Peace Council.

The committee's plenary session was attended by Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

ROMANOV ATTENDS LENINGRAD HOUSING SESSION

WA261726 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 82 p 1

[LENTASS report: "To Develop Housing in Every Possible Way"]

[Excerpts] The ninth session of the Leningrad City Soviet of Working People's Deputies 17th convocation took place yesterday. The question was discussed of the work of local soviets of working people's deputies in Leningrad to fulfill the decree issued at the fifth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet "On Developing Housing and Improving Utilization and Maintenance of Availabe Housing."

Those participating in the work of the ninth session included CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom G.V. Romanov and members of the Leningrad Oblast Party Committee Bureau B.S. Andreyev, A.N. Gerasimov, V.G. Zakharov, V.M. Kapustin, Yu.F. Solovyev and N.Ya. Suslov.

First deputy chairman of the Leningrad Soviet ispolkom deputy M.D. Finonov presented the report; a co-report was presented by N.A. Mikhaylov, chairman of the permanent commission on the use and repair of housing.

The two delivering the report and co-report and the deputies speaking during the discussions noted with satisfaction that the Soviet people under the leadership of the CPSU are working persistently to implement the broad program drawn up by the 26th CPSU Congress for a further rise in the national well-being.

Fully supporting party domestic and foreign policy, like all Soviet people, the Leningraders express deep gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, its Politburo, and the outstanding party and state leader Comrade L.I. Brezhnev for their tireless activity to strengthen the might of the Soviet state, strengthen peace in the world, and improve the well-being of the people.

It was noted at the session that the ispolkoms of the city and rayon soviets are taking the necessary steps to implement the USSR Supreme Soviet decree and reinforce citizen's rights to housing. Under the leadership of the Leningrad party organization the social program is being consistently implemented, including in the field of improving living conditions for the workers, which is an integral part of the plan for the comprehensive economic and social development of Leningrad for the 11th 5-Year Plan. During this period provision has been made to commission about 10 million square meters total area in new houses and housing undergoing capital repair.

As a result of the persistent implementation of the steps envisaged by the party and government to develop housing and municipal construction, during the previous three 5-year plans, housing in Leningrad has almost doubled. During the period 1976-1980 alone more than 700,000 Leningraders improved their housing conditions.

When speaking of what has been achieved, the deputies focused attention on the shortcomings existing in the development of housing in Leningrad and in the utilization and maintenance of housing. In a number of rayons in the city the amount of housing available does not fully meet present requirements and renewal rates are low; this is holding up the transfer to a system of planning-preventive maintenance. The capacities of the repair-and-construction organizations are being built up slowly. The quality of capital and current must be improved. Newcomers' complaints about residential building are justified; when they move in all work is not fully completed on electric power supplies and fire safety protection, elevators and the water supply do not operate as they should, and the areas around the buildings have not been properly finished. It was stressed at the session that the serious problems in the activities of the housing authorities are connected with neglect in work with staff and an inadequate level of personal responsibility among workers for the work entrusted to them.

The main fuel and power administration, Lenenergo, and the Vodokanal and Dormost administrations are slow to implement steps to develop and improve reliability in the heating, water, gas and power supplies. Full use is not being made of opportunities to save energy, heat and fuel in housing. The ispolkoms of the rayon soviets do not always exercise the necessary control over the condition of departmental housing and do not insure the broad recruitment of efforts and means from enterprises and organizations to improve the housing situation and amenities, and make poor use of the permanent commissions of the soviets of working people's deputies and the soviets in the developments in this work and coordinate their actions poorly.

KOSTANDOV SEES TURKMEN SSR PLAN PROGRESS

LD260228 Ashkabad Domestic Service in Russian 1640 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade Kostandov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, stayed in Turkmenistan 22-25 February. During his stay in the republic he familiarized himself with the progress in the construction of the major projects of the 5-year plan: The Turkmen nitrogenous fertilizer works in Mary, the oil refinery and the oil extraction works in Chardzhou. Comrade Kostandov also visited the ammonia-phosphate shop of the Lenin Chemical Works in Chardzhou and met with the leaders of Chardzhouskaya Oblast. While acquainting himself with the industrial projects, Kostandov talked to the workers and the engineering and technical staff and gave them valuable advice and instructions.

Comrade Kostandov was accompanied by Gapurov, first secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, and Karryyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Turkmen SSR.

LATVIAN MINISTER OF LOCAL INDUSTRY REPLACED

LD232300 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1730 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] The Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Nikolay Altukhov of his duties as Latvian SSR minister of local industry due to a work transfer. Comrade Alfreds Rubiks has been appointed Latvian SSR minister of local industry.

SUPREME COURT VIEWS CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUNKENNESS

LD251556 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] A plenum of the USSR Supreme Court is taking place in Moscow. Great attention in its work is occupied by consideration of the practice of the use of legislation by courts to intensify the campaign against drunkenness, and their fulfillment of the provisions of the USSR Supreme Court plenum on these questions. Questions concerning marriage and family legislation will be considered.

JAN-FEB INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWED

PM251603 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 16 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed article under rubric "We sum up Results": "February: Coordinated Work Is the Guarantee of Success"]

[Text] There are less than 2 weeks to go before the end of the quarter. This will be a time of intensive labor. The laggards must be brought up to scratch and the shortfalls that have emerged since the start of the year must be eliminated. A great deal depends on the coordination of work in all sectors of production and at all levels of management.

It still cannot be said that highly rhythmical labor has been achieved in industry. The plan targets for February and the first 2 months as a whole were exceeded. All the union republics and most industrial ministries coped successfully with them. However, there are still many enterprises and associations that have failed to fulfill their pledges. This is having an adverse effect on the growth rate of production and labor efficiency. The collectives of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and the Ministry of the Medical Industry failed to cope with the 2-month sales plan. Enterprises of the Ministry of Construction, Road and Municipal Machine Building and the Main Administration of the Microbiological Industry failed to fulfill the targets in terms of normative net output.

Ministry of Gas Industry collectives worked well in February. They exceeded the plan by 2 percent in terms of the total volume of output. The country received more than 39 billion cubic meters of fuel from them. Power industry workers generated 117 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Matters improved at enterprises of the Ministry of Power Machine Building and the Ministry of Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry. They gave the national economy the planned quantity of their extremely important output, including a considerable number of articles with high technical and economic indicators. Among these articles were 851 metal-cutting machine tools with digital program control. New construction projects and enterprises undergoing modernization also received new machines, equipment, instruments and automation facilities from chemical machine building collectives, instrument makers and electrical equipment industry workers.

Special attention is now being paid to material and technical supplies for the countryside. Preparations for the spring sowing campaign have developed on a broad front in all regions of the country. Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes expect industrial enterprises not to be late with a single delivery. But unfortunately, here too the needed coordination is still lacking. While the tractor builders are coping with their pledges, matters are worse with the chemical industry workers. In February they were responsible for a sizable shortfall in deliveries of mineral fertilizers to the countryside, though they coped with the targets for the production of plant protection agents. The leaders of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and the Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers must urgently take effective measures to ensure better collaboration between their enterprises and to eliminate the accumulated shortfalls more rapidly.

The situation in the coal industry is straightening out somewhat. In February the sector fulfilled the plan in terms of the total volume of output. Some 59.4 million tons of fuel were extracted, though the miners did not manage to fully meet the additional target.

But the situation in the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy has not changed for the better: The metallurgists failed to fulfill the 2-month plan in terms of pig iron, steel, finished rolled metal products and coke. Production of these most important types of output was 4-5 percent lower than it was in the same months last year. A shortage of metal is now being felt in all machine building sectors and in construction, and this is affecting the rhythm and coordination of the work of the entire national economy.

A great deal depends on the construction workers engaged in reconstructing and modernizing a number of metallurgical plants and combine. A few days ago they made a substantial contribution to building the potential of ferrous metallurgy: They collective of the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Contruction Work Tsentrometallurgmontazh trust's Gubkin administration finished installing the equipment at an enriching factory of the Lebedinskiy mining and enriching combine. The factory will produce more than 2.5 million tons of concentrate with an iron content of at least 70 percent each year.

Judging by the results for February and the first 2 months of the year, positive shifts have emerged in the production of consumer goods. But there are still many problems here. Fewer television sets, radio receivers, refrigerators and pairs of leather footwear than planned were produced in the 2 months. Some 909 million square meters of textiles of all types were produced in February, but only linen textiles were produced in accordance with the plan. Food industry enterprises exceeded the February plan by 2 percent and meat and dairy industry enterprises exceeded it by 3 percent. Some 609,000 tons of meat and almost 49,000 tons of butter were produced from raw material from state resources, though this is less than the planned quantity. The month's target for the production of whole milk products was not fulfilled.

What is the main task now? Obviously, collectives must be helped in every possible way to make up for their omissions and to finish the first quarter with good results. That is the primary duty of the leaders and specialists of the sectorial ministries and departments. Additional resources must be earmarked for laggard enterprises and they must be helped with skilled cadres and equipment. Of course, this must be done not for the sake of impressive reports or bonuses but in order to organize smooth, rhythmical work both at the enterprises in question and throughout the economic chain.

Party and trade union organs must persistently mobilize labor collectives to seek reserves for increasing production and improving its efficiency. On the basis of careful analysis of the situation, those who have not yet organized coordinated work in their section, shop, enterprise or association must be called strictly to account. The closest attention must be paid to the dissemination and widespread assimilation of the leading experience of collectives that work rhythmically and fulfill their plans and contract commitments irreproachably. Competition under the slogan "All Orders on Time!" must be developed more widely.

We have all the conditions for coordinated work throughout industry. It is a question of organization, strong conscious discipline and personal initiative in socialist competition. Coordinated rhythmical work is today the main guarantee of the successful fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plans for the year and the 5-year plan.

SOVIET BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE CRITICIZED

PM191525 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 14 March publishes on page 1 a 2,000-word article entitled "Businesslike Letters" by publicist Ivan Yurchenko, who accuses officials at various levels of administration and the economy of being vague, long-winded or irrelevant in their replies to business correspondence and letters of complaint. Yurchenko cites instances of procrastination and responsibility-shirking and stresses the need for truly "bussinesslike" communications within the economy and administration.

UZBEK OFFICIAL EXPECTS INCOME TO INCREASE

GF241405 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] During the current 5-year plan period, the national income of the Uzbek SSR will increase 1.3 percent. This was stated in an interview with our correspondent by Narmakhonmadi Khudayberdyyev, chairman of the Uzbek Council of Ministers Presidium, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union. Khudayberdyyev said that a strong economy has been established under Soviet sovereignty in the Uzbek SSR in cooperation with the members of other peoples in the republic. Cotton cultivation is the main industry in the Uzbek SSR. Over 6 million tons of cotton were harvested last year thanks to favorable weather conditions.

USSR LAUNCHES METEOR-2 SATELLITE

LD251546 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar TASS -- The Soviet Union today launched another meteorological Earth satellite, "Meteor 2".

Its initial period of rotation is 104.2 minutes, maximum distance from terrestrial surface 976 km minimum distance 954 km and orbit inclination 82.5 degrees.

The satellite carries equipment to obtain global pictures of clouds and the underlying surface in the visible and infra-red spectrum both in the memorizing and direct transmission regimes, as well as radiometric equipment for uninterrupted observation of penetrating radiation fluxes in the terrestrial space.

The onboard equipment is functioning normally, data from the satellite are received by the State Research Centre on the Study of Natural Resources and the USSR Hydrometeorological Centre for processing and use.

LAUNCHING OF COSMOS-1344 ON 24 MARCH ANNOUNCED

LD251028 Moscow TASS in English 1014 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar, TASS -- The Soviet Union launched on March 24 the next-in-the-series Cosmos-1344 sputnik to continue space exploration.

The satellite's initial period of revolution is 105 minutes. Maximum distance from the Earth's surface is 1,023 kilometres. Minimum distance is 987 kilometres. Inclination of the orbit is 82.9 degrees.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

BRIEFS

ARMENIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE -- Scientists of the Archaeology and Ethnography Institute of the Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences held their annual conference on 22 March. The conference was opened by Vazken Arakelyan, the director of the institute. Speeches were delivered on traditions of Armenian culture, medieval Armenian towns and archeological discoveries in the Armenian SSR. [Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 22 Mar 82 GF]